http://www.aerandria.net

Hana to Yume Comics

# OIRAN GIRL

Hibiki Wataru 1

Hana to Yume COMICS

OIRAN GIRL (1)

Hibiki Wataru

Hakusensha

9784592193067

ISBN978-4-592-19306-7

C9979 ¥400E

1929979004002

定価 本体400円+税

雑誌43791－29

Summary

The era is Edo (1603-1868). Tsubaki is a merchant's daughter who is sold to the red lights district after losing her family in a fire. Driven by desire to triumph over her first love, a servant, she aims to become the top courtesan! She polishes her beauty and artistic talents every day, but for some reason, her senior courtesan and current number one oiran Takao has an eye on her!! The first volume of the super popular, long-awaited volume full of blooming beauty! ♥

■ Lala Publishing ■

Hana to Yume Comics

Hakusensha

Hana to Yume Comics

# OIRAN GIRL

Volume 1

Hibiki Wataru

*This is a work of fiction. All resemblance to actual people, organizations or events is purely coincidental

## CONTENTS


OIRAN GIRL Chapter 1 ..... 3

Chapter 2 ..... 55

Chapter 3 ..... 107

Chapter 4 ..... 149

Extra manga Oiran GoGo ..... 189

These should have been sweet memories
SHIN!
I DON'T WANT TO BE APART!
STAY WITH ME FOREVER.
Oiran Girl
LAME!
I THINK YOU'RE MISUNDERSTANDING SOMETHING
UNTIL NOW I PUT UP WITH YOU BECAUSE I HAD NO CHOICE YOU BEING A RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER AND ALL
NOW THAT YOU'RE BROKE I'D GLADLY DUMP YOU ON ANYONE WHO WANTS YOU.
Dong Dong Dong
HA HA HA HA
It's been eight years since then.
This incident became a trauma carved deeply on my pure maiden's heart.
Tsubaki, seven years old. A woman of no monetary value.

*Note: Edo was the old name of Tokyo and Yoshiwara is the red lights district

# Oiran Girl

## Chapter 1

The blooming garden of beautiful women, Edo, Yoshiwara*

This is where I live now.

I used to be the daughter of a wealthy merchant with lots of servants

But one day, due to a sudden fire, we lost the shop and the house.

And the servants deserted us

About the time I got my trauma

I kept crying and crying and they gave me away to Yoshiwara.

For several days after that my parents were up to their necks in debt.

Do you pity me for this kind of personal history?

No, no.

Smile.

ANOTHER PRETTY NEWBIE

ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL OIRAN GIRL?

Then, I'll think of this fate as a chance!
Lamenting the past won't feed an empty stomach!
The same person
The main character
It's exactly what I wanted!
Until I reach the top of all oiran!
I will do it!

Oho ho
ho ho ho ho
You will regret through tears that you dumped me!
One day, I'll become an unattainable flower to him.
The whole world will roar with my name.
Shin, eight years later (mental image)
STOP MAKING SUCH VULGAR NOISES.
Wah
IT'S TAKAO!
SHE'S MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE RUMORS SAY!
YOU ARE AN APPRENTICE TO ME THE ESTEEMED TAKAO
TAKAO NEE-SAN
CONSEQUENTLY, IT WILL REFLECT ON MY OWN GRACE.

*Note: Oiran (花魁) were courtesans in Japan. The oiran were considered a type of yūjo (遊女?), "woman of pleasure" or prostitute. However, they are distinguished from the yūjo in that they were entertainers, and many became celebrities of their times outside the pleasure districts.

Oiran* Takao.
However...
What did the oiran do?
Smile
That thing
Look at that thing carefully and learn how NOT to grow up vulgar and unsophisticated.
Ehh
Ahh
For some reason, she has a glaringly different attitude towards me alone!
With those looks and those wiles, she can lead all the rich men lining up for her by the nose.
She lives up to her name as Yoshiwara's number one.
Next to her is her big favorite, Tsurukameya's young master!

TSUBAKI IS A LITTLE ILL-MANNERED, BUT HER LOOKS ARE GOOD. SHE'S STRONG-WILLED AND HAS A BACKBONE
SHE MIGHT START SELLING VERY WELL VERY SOON.
Huuh End of today's crash course
What? Crash course?
Takuo
I don't know what in the world she doesn't like about me, but...
...on my way to get to the very top.
...she will soon be a wall blocking my path.
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN.

Just watch me defeat you, you cuckoo!
THERE HAVE BEEN MANY FIRES LATELY
AND ALWAYS IN THE WHOLESALE STORES OF BIG MERCHANTS.
Tsuruhall come here for a minute!
Yes!
YOU BE CAREFUL, TOO, TSURUKAMEYA-SAN
THERE ARE RUMORS IT WAS ARSON
Hahaa
YOU'RE RIGHT
IF I WERE BROKE DUE TO A FIRE I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO THE PROSTITUTE QUARTERS ANYMORE
stomp stomp stomp
THUD

AH THE YOUNG MASTER OF THE TSURU-KAMEYA. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE
I've seen him somewhere before ?
Ah_?
IS TAKAO HERE?
TSUBAKI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HURRY UP AND COME, YOU'LL BE LATE!
mumble mumble
TSURUKAMEYA? TSURUKAME
AH!

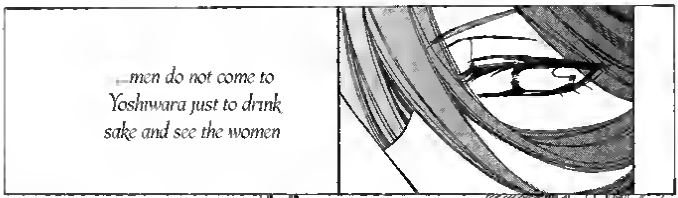
Wahaha~
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'D GET TO MEET... THAT TSUBAKI-CHAN AT SUCH A PLACE.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
What relationship do they have?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH FOR YOU, BUT YOU'VE GROWN BEYOND RECOGNITION
You're embarrassing me...
YOU TOO, ZENNO-SUKE-SAMA.
Whisper
SEEMS THEY KNEW EACH OTHER FROM BEFORE. THEIR PARENTS WERE IN THE SAME BUSINESS AND WERE PRETTY CLOSE OR SOMETHING
BUT IF THEY BECOME TOO FRIENDLY, TAKAO-SAN WON'T BE HAPPY...
I WAS ABLE TO REMEMBER YOU...
...BECAUSE WE BUMPED INTO EACH OTHER IN THE CORRIDOR LIKE THAT.
OH?
THE SAME THING HAS HAPPENED BEFORE, RIGHT?

ZENNOSUKE-SAMA!
IT WAS AT MY HOUSE, WHEN—
TAKAO! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
WELL THEN, I'LL BE LEAV—
GRAB
NEVER COME—

ANYWHERE NEAR ZENNOSUKE-SAMA EVER AGAIN
IT'S A FACT THAT...
...IN YOSHIWARA, ONLY ONE DESIGNATED COURTESAN TAKES CARE OF ONE GUEST.
ZENNOSUKE-SAMA IS OIRAN TAKAO'S FAVORITE,
SO I UNDERSTAND SHE'D BE UPSET IF HE WERE BECOMING FRIENDLY WITH ME, BUT...
close
IT'S TIME FOR BABIES TO BACK OFF.

MAYBE THAT SOMEONE IS ZENNOSUKE SAMA
AND HAS NO INTENTION OF UNWINDING HER OBI FOR ANYONE ELSE
THE RUMORS SAY TAKAO-SAN HAS SOME SHE LOVES
A WOMAN'S JEALOUSY IS A BIG AND FRIGHTENING THING
*Hohoho*
She didn't have to over-react
BUT IT WASN'T AS IF I WAS SEDUCING HIM!
*Note Euphemism for "sleeping with"

just one sliding door away? I already understand that
I wonder what kind of secrets are hidden in there


...men do not come to Yoshiwara just to drink sake and see the women

An apprentice like me cannot take on customers, yet, but...
sooner or later...

But...
...is wishing to be with a man I love...
...such an impossible thing?
AHH, TSUBAKI! THE GUEST WHO JUST LEFT FORGOT THIS!
SORRY, BUT GO DELIVER IT
YES!

*Note: Direct vassal of the shogun

Note: Samurai had the right to kill people in the streets
I-I'M VERY SOR—
WOMAN.
RECEIVE YOUR DEATH PENALTY.
PRE-PARE!
WAIT, PLEASE.
TAKAO-

# ONE

## WARNING: THIS STORY IS FICTION.

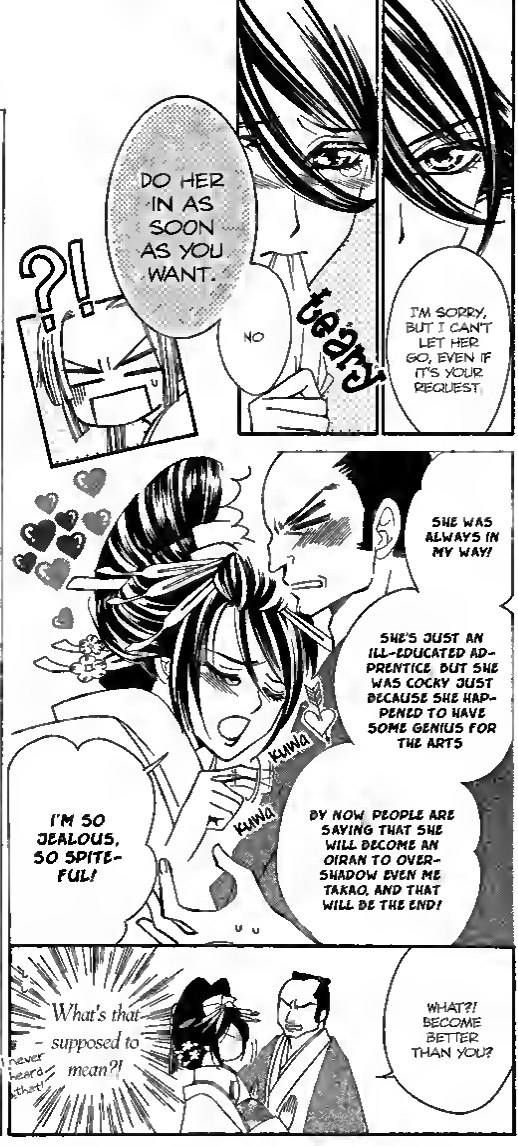
Hello everyone, I'm Hinako Watanu. Thank you very much for taking into your hands "oiran girl."

If you've reached this far in reading this manga, you've presumably already noticed, that this is oiran-themed, but it's not a story overflowing with pathos and grief.

I can almost hear the cries "That's SO far-fetched!" of those of you who expected a story of a gentle and fleeting threads and those who have a particularly deep knowledge of the oiran world. I'm sorry.

The truth is, I've wanted to draw an oiran-themed manga for a long time now, but there's a strict limit to the public moral of the mangas in LaLa. (LaLa is a magazine about pure-hearted maidens.) Besides, isn't it hard for those who draw the broken loves and sorrows of the oiran living in their own world? And a historical piece requires a lot of research... I thought about all of these things for a long time and hesitated to start drawing.

<-- To be continued in TWO

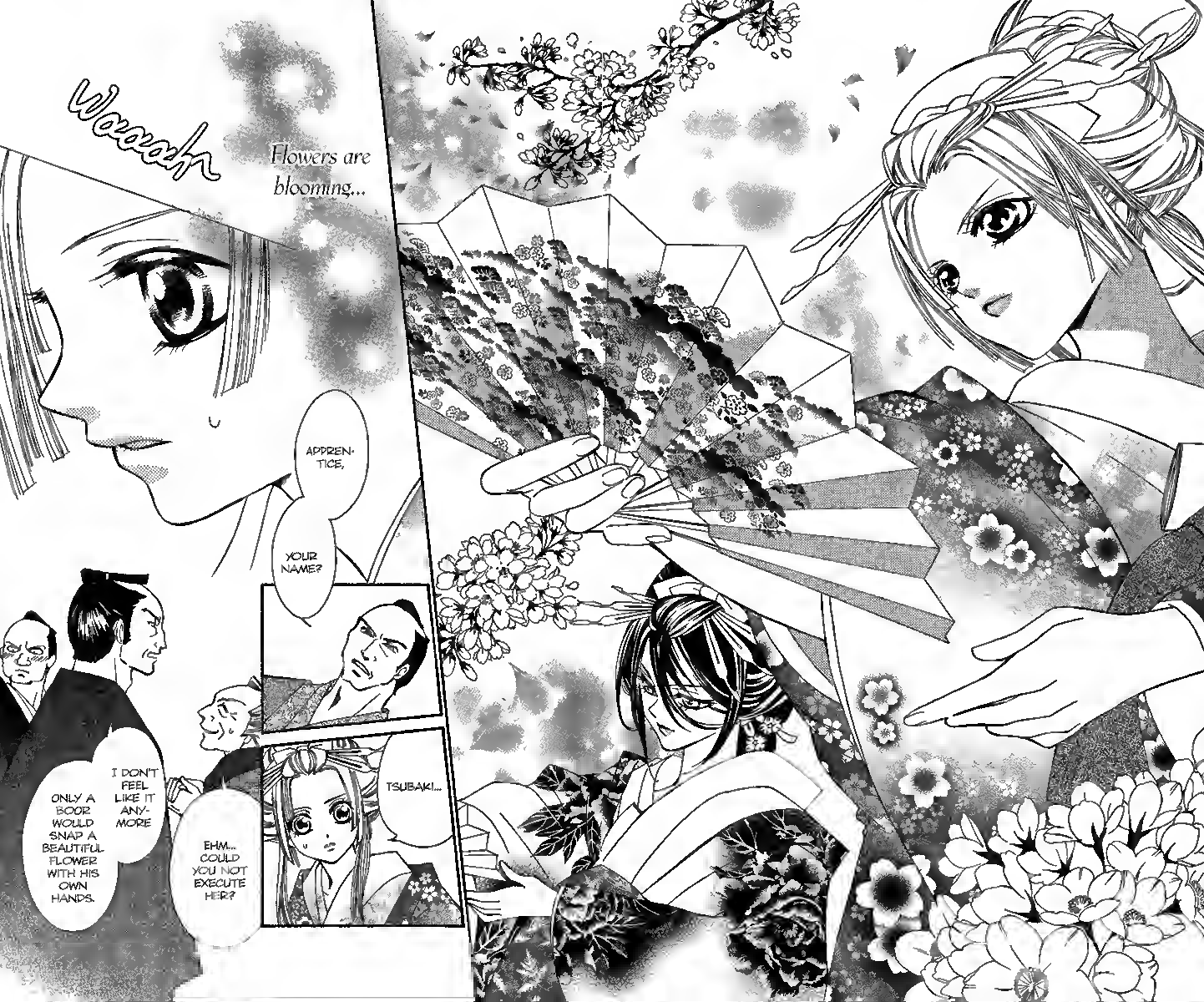

DO HER IN AS SOON AS YOU WANT.
?!
NO
tearry
I'M SORRY, BUT I CAN'T LET HER GO, EVEN IF IT'S YOUR REQUEST.
SHE WAS ALWAYS IN MY WAY!
SHE'S JUST AN ILL-EDUCATED APPRENTICE BUT SHE WAS COCKY JUST BECAUSE SHE HAPPENED TO HAVE SOME GENIUS FOR THE ARTS
KUWA
KUWA
I'M SO JEALOUS, SO SPITEFUL!
BY NOW PEOPLE ARE SAYING THAT SHE WILL BECOME AN OIRAN TO OVERSHADOW EVEN ME TAKAO, AND THAT WILL BE THE END!
What's that supposed to mean?!
never heard that!
WHAT?! BECOME BETTER THAN YOU?

Don't tell me the one who pushed me before was ...
SO APPRENTICE, DANCE FOR ME.
BEFORE I BEHEAD YOU, I WANT TO SEE YOUR TALENTS!
BUT... I'M REALLY INTERESTED IN WHAT KIND OF APPRENTICE COULD OUTDO YOU TAKAO
AH!
STIR
Prepare a room at once!
What's going on there?
Ah, ah, what a show!
BEFORE YOU DIE, YOU MIGHT EMBARRASS YOURSELF TO NO END.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THAT,
SHOW ENOUGH BACKBONE TO TRIUMPH OVER HIM.
Fortunately my stern parents have been hammering in me arts and elegance ever since I can remember
HURRY UP!
And there's one more thing
NO MATTER ON WHAT HARD TIMES YOU MIGHT FALL, THERE'S ONE THING YOU MUST NEVER LOSE"
That is

...Pride.

swish
My foot was hurt when I fell down !
STAGGER
Sync your breathing with mine.


Wawaah
Flowers are blooming...
APPRENTICE,
YOUR NAME?
TSUBAKI...
EHM... COULD YOU NOT EXECUTE HER?
I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT ANYMORE
ONLY A BOOR WOULD SNAP A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER WITH HIS OWN HANDS.

TODAY I LEARNED HOW OIRAN FIND WAYS TO STAND OUT.
THEY SAY THE HIGHEST RANKING COURTESANS ENTERTAIN THEIR GUESTS ONLY WITH THEIR ARTS,
leer
SO YOU KEEP GOING ON AHEAD IN THE SAME SPIRIT.
YOU HAVE A GOOD COURTESAN TO LEARN FROM...
AM...
AMAZING!
NOT ONLY DID YOU ESCAPE PUNISHMENT, YOU EVEN TURNED HIM INTO AN ALLY!
AND THE WAY YOU DANCED WAS *VERY* COOL!
I DID NOT DO THAT.
A disgrace.
Tsuyaki-chan?

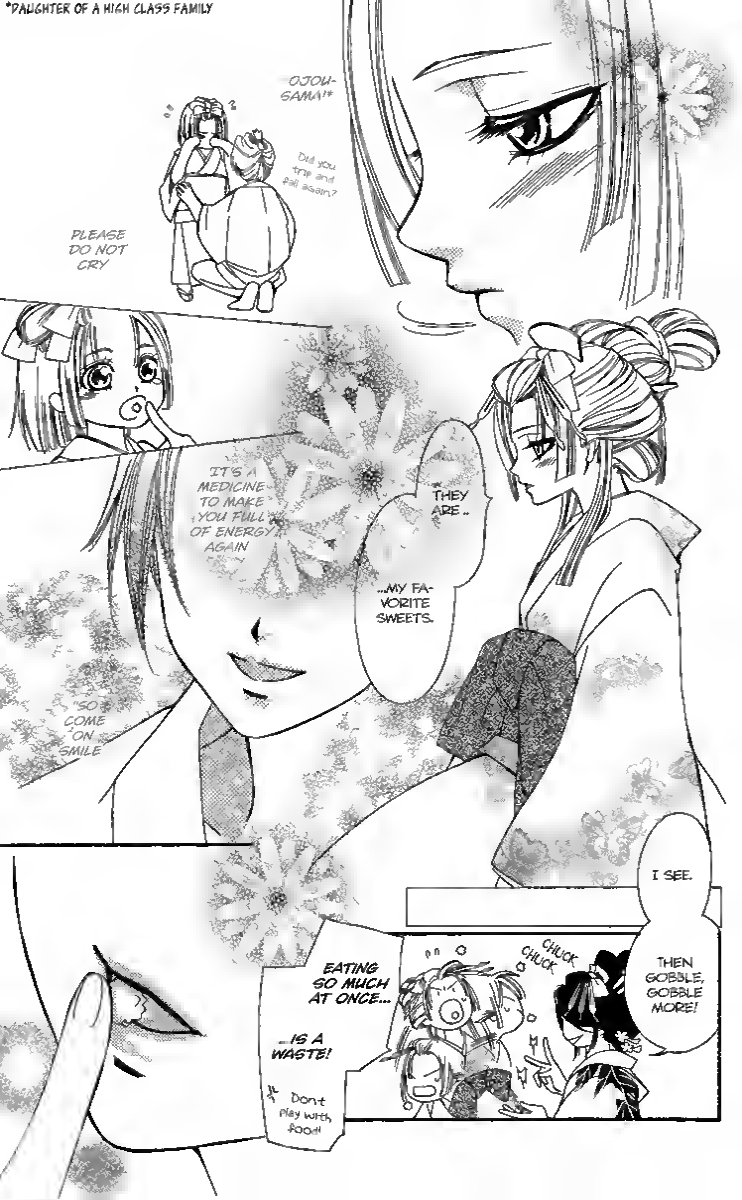
TSUBAKI, SHOW ME YOUR LEG!
YOU WERE IN PAIN JUST NOW—
YOU'RE HORRIBLE NEE-SAN!
WHEN I THINK YOU ALWAYS BULLY ME AND HATE ME, YOU COME AND SAVE ME.
WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT FROM ME?!
ENOUGH, STOP
GRAB
ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME, WATCHING ME SQUIRM IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND?!

?!
TAKAO-NEE
YOU'RE HEAVY! TAKE THAT OFF AND DON'T MOVE!
Are you mad?!
Y-YES!

AHH...
AS I THOUGHT PRETTY BAD
drip drip
SO MORTIFYING
IN THE END, I'M ALWAYS UNDER SOMEONE'S PROTECTION
WITHOUT IT, I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY VALUE
"I PUT UP WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE A RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER"
BEING REMINDED OF THAT...
YOU HAVE A GOOD COURTESAN TO LEARN FROM
...IS SO MORTIFYING

Note: a type of small candy made by crystallizing sugar around a poppy seed core

*DAUGHTER OF A HIGH CLASS FAMILY

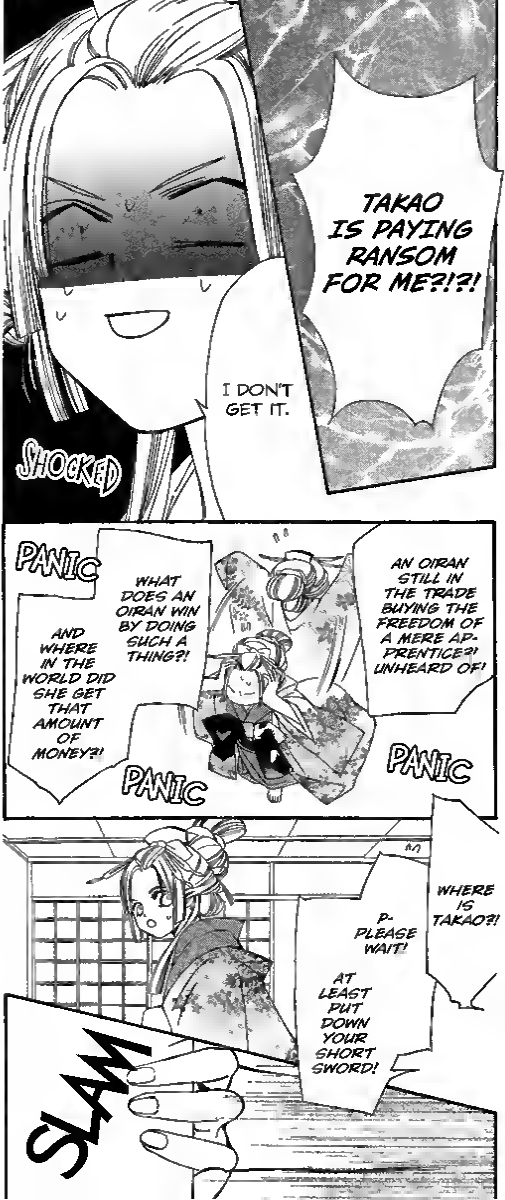


ROSY CHEEKS...
...ARE YOUR GREATEST CHARM.
THEN SMILE.
This is...
...a coax, the specialty of any oiran.
But...
TAKAO-NEE-SAN...
I'm sure the reason I don't hate it is because...

I SAW EVERY-THING.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU SAVED THAT APPRENTICE, TSUBAKI...
CLOSE
I WAS PER-FECTLY SURE YOU HATED HER.
I DID IT BE-CAUSE IT'S A BOTHER TO STAIN OUR CORRIDORS WITH BLOOD
...it calls to life that sweet dream of the past.
THANK YOU...
ABOUT BEFORE...
GLOMP
HOW LONG WILL YOU TAKE BEFORE YOU LOOSEN THAT OBI FOR ME?
WELL.. WHEN YOU MAKE ME YOUR WIFE.
SAY TAKAO,
EVEN THOUGH I'M SO INTO YOU,

ZENNO-SUKE-SAMA, PLEASE.
BUY MY FREEDOM.
I WAS CARE-LESS.
I ALLOWED A WOMAN TO MAKE MY HEART RACE...
TSUBA-KI-CHAN, TROU-BLE! A CLIENT WANTS TO PAY RANSOM*!
EH, WHO, WHO?
IT'S—

*NOTE: AS IF IN MONEY NEEDED TO BUY THE FREEDOM OF A COURTESAN FROM THE HOUSE WHICH OWNS HER.


TAKAO IS PAYING RANSOM FOR ME?!?!
I DON'T GET IT.
SHOCKED
PANIC
WHAT DOES AN OIRAN WIN BY DOING SUCH A THING?!
AN OIRAN STILL IN THE TRADE BUYING THE FREEDOM OF A MERE APPRENTICE?! UNHEARD OF!
AND WHERE IN THE WORLD DID SHE GET THAT AMOUNT OF MONEY?!
PANIC
PANIC
WHERE IS TAKAO?!
P-PLEASE WAIT!
AT LEAST PUT DOWN YOUR SHORT SWORD!
SLAM

# TWO

But my desire to draw it was growing every day. And when I finally talked to my supervisor about it...

Thus I got this extremely right answer, and as a result of my own consideration after that, I came up with the cheeky conclusion that "They publish all and sundry in this magazine anyway (Hey!), so what's wrong with having this story, too?" With the excuse that this is fiction, we witnessed the birth of this high-tension oiran manga.

Fortunately, I got my chance to publish it in the magazine and my supervisor said:

Or that was the spirit of it. But thankfully, I got to draw chapter two, then three, until it grew into a separate volume.

← To be continued in THREE

ZENNO-SUKE-SAMA?
HUH?! I-I DON'T UNDER-STAND WHAT YOU MEAN...
DAMN YOU! THAT'S WHY I PUSHED YOU IN FRONT OF THAT SAMURAI, SO THAT HE WOULD SEAL YOUR MOUTH SHUT!
THE POLICE-MEN ARE AFTER ME.
YOU.. FI-NALLY TESTIFIED, DIDN'T YOU?!
AND A RANSOM ON TOP OF ALL THAT?!
I PREPARED THAT WHOLE MOUNTAIN OF MONEY TO BUY TAKAO'S FREEDOM.
WHY IS THIS MONEY SUDDENLY YOUR RANSOM?!
ATONEMENT

FOR WHAT YOU DID TO TSUBAKI
TAKAO?!
FOR THE LAST YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN AN ARSONIST WANDERING THE STREETS OF EDO WHO SETS FIRE TO THE BIG SHOPS.
THAT CRIMINAL IS YOU ZENNOSUKE!
INCLUDING THE ONE WHO TARGETED TSUBAKI'S HOUSE ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.

THUD
"SHIN..?"
IS SOME-ONE IN THE GARDEN?
ZENNOSUKE WAS IN THE PREMISES..
YOU MUST HAVE SEEN HIM THE NIGHT YOUR HOUSE BURNED DOWN
The fire broke out immediately after that
At the time, I was half asleep and my memories were fuzzy;
WHY...
THUS HE DE-STROYED RIVAL SHOPS AND EXPANDED HIS OWN
TAKAO, YOU BITCH! WHY DO YOU BETRAY ME?!
YOU SAID YOU'D BECOME MY WIFE, SO I TOLD YOU EVERY-THING.
AND YOU ...!

BETRAY?
TAKAO...
THAT WAS MY INTENTION RIGHT FROM THE START.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
STOP!

Takao may be ill tempered, but...
I WON'T LET GARBAGE LIKE YOU LAY A FINGER ON HER!
OJOU-SAMA!

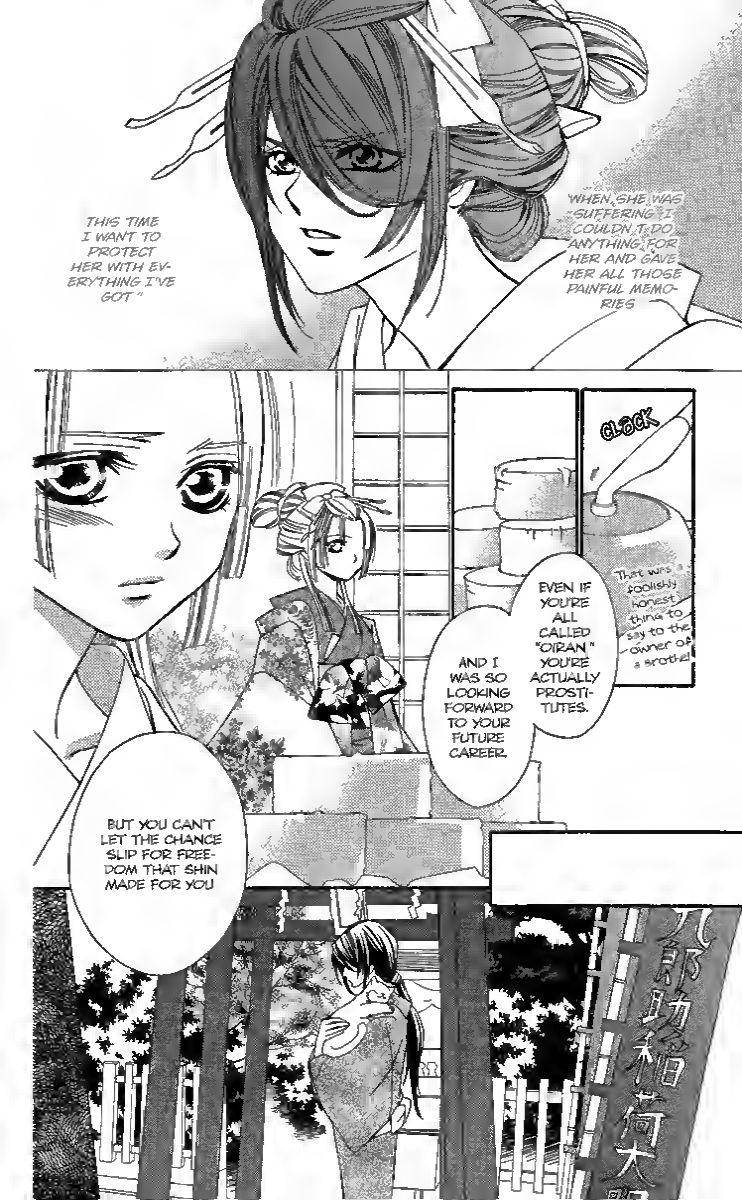
KICK

TSURUKAMEYA ZENNOSUKE, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR ARSON AND ATTEMPTED MURDER!
Manji
TAKAO..
WHO IN THE WORLD ARE YOU?!
The only one who ever called me that_
"OJOU-SAMA."

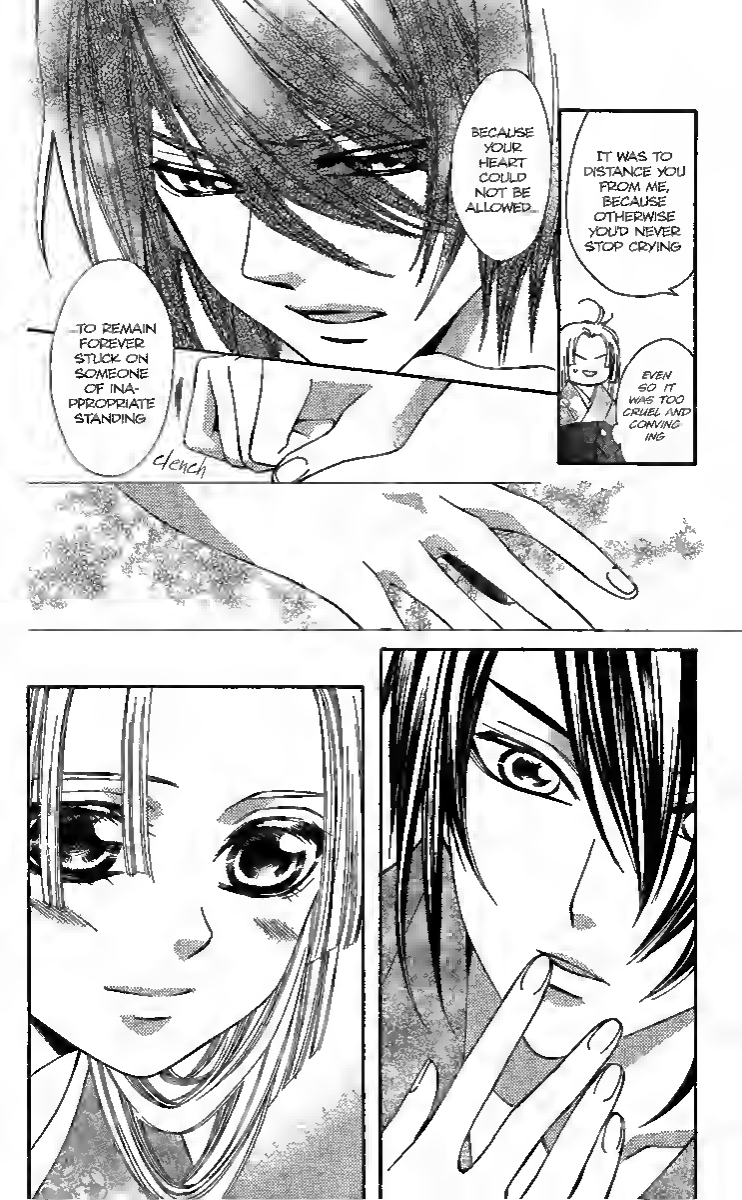
SHIN...
The only one...
A SERVANT AT THE FIRST HOUSE YOU SET FIRE TO.
"Ojou-sama."

"TSUBAKI-OJOU-SAMA"
I'M VERY GLAD YOU ARE SAFE AND SOUND.
TSUBAKI-OJOU-SAMA.
IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS SINCE THEN
SHIN CAME HERE TO YOSHIWARA WITH THE INTENTION OF TAKING REVENGE FOR THE MASTERS WHO HAD TAKEN CARE OF HIM

AT FIRST, I EMPLOYED HIM AS A MANSERVANT, BUT...
BECAUSE COMPARED TO THE "WIDE WORLD OUT THERE," HERE IT'S MUCH EASIER TO GET SECRET INFORMATION.
JUST FOR THE HECK OF IT, I TRIED LETTING HIM ON STAGE.
Shin
I need you, so do what I tell you.
We're short of staff
HE WAS SMART AND DIDN'T LOOK ANY WORSE THAN ANY WOMAN HERE.
HIS LOYALTY TO YOU IS REALLY HARDCORE.
I WILL ABSOLUTELY NEVER REVEAL MY IDENTITY
SO PLEASE LEAVE HER IN MY CARE!
AFTERWARDS, WHEN WE BOUGHT YOU, BY CHANCE HIS EXCITEMENT SIMPLY SKY-ROCKETED
Can't tell due to the makeup
Why are you here?!
SOON, MIURAYA WILL BE A SYMBOL OF YOSHIWARA!
AND THIS IS WHERE WE ARE NOW!
Can't stop laughing
Sucker for money
OWNER


"WHEN SHE WAS SUFFERING I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR HER AND GAVE HER ALL THOSE PAINFUL MEMORIES
THIS TIME I WANT TO PROTECT HER WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT."
CLOCK
That was foolishly honest thing to say to the owner of a brothel
EVEN IF YOU'RE ALL CALLED "OIRAN" YOU'RE ACTUALLY PROSTITUTES.
AND I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR FUTURE CAREER.
BUT YOU CAN'T LET THE CHANCE SLIP FOR FREEDOM THAT SHIN MADE FOR YOU

NOW YOU CAN RETURN TO YOUR PARENTS, RIGHT?
thump
bow
I APOLOGIZE DEEPLY FOR ALL THE RUDENESS I DISPLAYED TOWARDS YOU,
EVEN THOUGH I WAS HIGHER-RANKING THAN YOU.
STOP THIS!
AND YOU SPEWED SUCH NASTY THINGS THE LAST TIME WE HAD TO SAY GOODBYE...
This feels wrong.

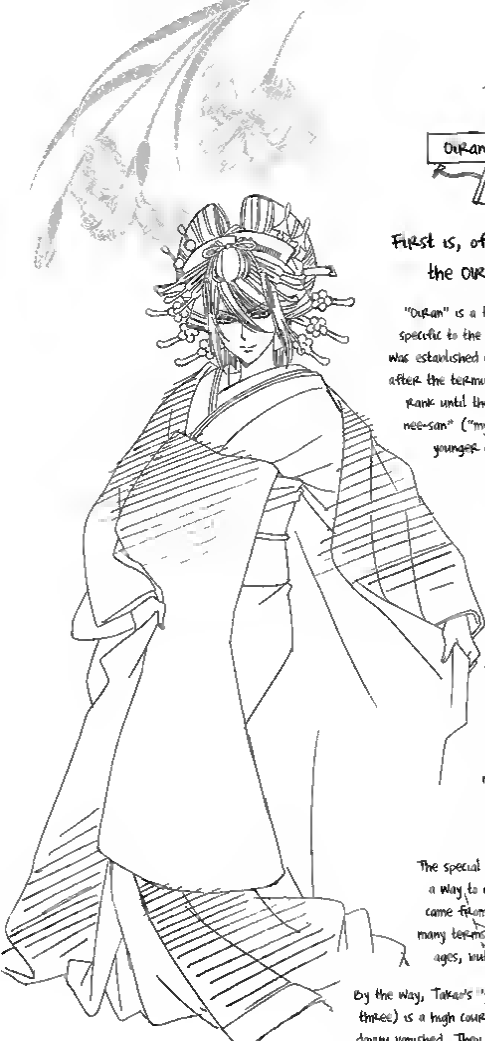

BECAUSE YOUR HEART COULD NOT BE ALLOWED...
IT WAS TO DISTANCE YOU FROM ME, BECAUSE OTHERWISE YOU'D NEVER STOP CRYING
...TO REMAIN FOREVER STUCK ON SOMEONE OF INA-PPROPRIATE STANDING
EVEN SO IT WAS TOO CRUEL AND CONVING ING
clench

LAME!
OJOU-SA...
KA-CHING
I'M GIVING THIS MONEY TO THE PEOPLE WHO SUFFERED IN THE FIRES.
IT TAKES MORE THAN MONEY TO MOVE A WOMAN OF YOSHIWARA!
I STILL HAVE THINGS I WANT TO DO

LIKE BECOME THE NUMBER ONE OIRAN IN YOSHIWARA AND OUTDO TAKAO.
AND TO MAKE THE MAN WHO DUMPED ME REGRET IT THROUGH TEARS!
Backbone and obstinacy.
YOU'RE REALLY A MESS.
.....

WELL SAID
THEN I'LL TRY TO STOP YOU WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT
A scroll drawing views of head-over-heels love

EH..?
EHM... SHIN?
Your attitude changed
Today, the blossoms of an oiran girl dances again
I'M TAKAO! BE PREPARED, IF YOU'RE GOING TO STAY AT YOSHIWARA!
SO THIS ILL TEMPER IS ACTUALLY YOUR REAL SELF?!
BRIMMING WITH CURIOSITY
SO REALLY TELL ME THE TRUTH. HAVE YOU LOOSENED YOUR OBI FOR ANYONE?
THUMP THUMP
NEVER FOR A MAN.
I get them very drunk that they are wasted before they can.



Make fun to read if you know this!
Mayee

# OIRAN GIRL

## Yoshiwara in detail ONE

### FIRST is, of course, the OIRAN.

"Oiran" is a term for a high-ranking courtesan, specific to the Yoshiwara red lights district, which was established in the second half of the 16th century, after the termination of "dayuu," the highest possible rank until then. It is said to come from 'oira no nee-san' ("my elder sister courtesan"), the way younger courtesans called their elders.

The oiran (then dayuu) from the golden age of Yoshiwara were super-girls who could do not only calligraphy, ikenana and tea ceremony, but also compose different kinds of poetry, play koto and shamsen (both Japanese stringed musical instruments) and even play go and shogi (Japanese board games, resembling chess). Obstinacy and inaccanne were virtues. Suitable sentiments and disposition were required of the guests who fell in love with them at first sight, too. Rude customers were firmly told NO and removed. There's a legend about one Takase dayuu who did not sell her virginity to any of her guests.

The special slang the oiran would use started out as a way to cover up the dialects of the women who came from the countryside. Actually, there were many terms used in different houses and different ages, but none of them were universally used.

By the way, Takao's "yonchashu chuusan" (afternoon call three) is a high courtesan rank established after the dayuu vanished. They didn't do hashamise♡ so, the customer had to call them home to meet them. Besides, they cost 3 mon♡ even during the daytime, which was generally the cheapest time, so the name stuck.

♡Note: Hashamise ... Lining up in a room with sliding doors facing the avenue and waiting for guests
♡Note: 3 mon is three quarters of a ryo, very large golden coin during the period

http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID SOULS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

# Oiran Girl

## Volume 01 Chapter 02

Lacaille :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaille :PROOFREADER
Mya :EDITORS
Lacaille :QUALITY CHECK

This is my dream chapter! Bishies in compromising positions and being misunderstood by the girl~

- Lacaille

irc://irchighway.net/#aerandria

Chapter 2
Oiran Girl

# Aiming for oiran! THE FURISODE APPRENTICE.

They were apprentice courtesans called that way because they often wore Red furisode (long sleeved) kimonos. They were fifteen to sixteen years old and wore a little more mature obi-knots at the front.

By their elder sister courtesan's side, they learned how to communicate with the guests and other skills and rules. In case the elder courtesan had two clients at the same time, they served as proxies (representatives).

When they became seventeen to eighteen years old and judged to be mature courtesans, they made their independence debut. They were still apprentices, so they didn't usually sell sex, but due to the house's policy or their own desire to start saving money, they could earn their elder sister courtesan's permission and start selling sex as well.

*Note: Euphemism for "sleep with"

This is the red lights district of Edo Yoshiwara
YOU NEVER LOOSEN* YOUR OBI FOR ME.
IN THE END, AM I JUST ANOTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOU?
PERISH THE THOUGHT! I'M SIMPLY SAVING MY CHASTITY AND HONOR FOR YOU, WHEN YOU BECOME MY HUSBAND
THE FACT I NEVER SHOW ANY SKIN TO ANYONE IS PROOF OF THAT.
IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT I HAD LOOSENED MY OBI FOR YOU ALONE, MASTER, ALL MY OTHER ACQUAINTANCES WILL NOT SIT STILL.
OR ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DO NOT MIND IT IF OTHER MEN WERE TO EMBRACE ME AS WELL, MASTER?
PLEASE BELIEVE ME...

"A harlot is as full of truth as eggs of square angles and fish of feathers."
(Komejirushi) Meaning that it's impossible to hear truth from a prostitute.
YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I LAY OPEN MY BARE HEART TO MASTER.
LIAR.
YOU GAVE THE EXACT SAME LINES...
...TO FOUR OR FIVE MORE CUSTOMERS. I HEARD YOU
TSUBAKI
Still a half-fledged furisode apprentice courtesan

I used to be daughter of a wealthy merchant
One day, we lost the house and the shop in a fire
After crying and crying, I parted with my first love, a servant
And I was sold to Yoshiwara and came here, but
IS THAT REALLY SO?
YES!
TAKAO
Yobidashi chuusan. The best selling top oiran at the courtesan house Miuraya
*Yobidashi Chuusan the highest courtesan rank
BY THE WAY, TSUBAKI
I'M GETTING CHANGED
EH.
AH!
I'M AS GOOD AS GONE...
ARE YOU STILL HERE?
SHIP

THUD
Who would have believe that this oiran...
ARE YOU HURT, TSUBAKI-OJOU-SAMA?
...was my first love, the servant Shin (male)!
ぎゅっ

I worked very hard to become an oiran at Yoshiwara.
Ho! Ho!
So, I was desperate to triumph over him
I put up with you because you were a rich man's daughter
Long ago, I got a trauma from Shin
But the very person who has seized the top spot of all oiran is...
Changed clothes
I KIND OF SLIPPED...
TAKAO-SAN I HEARD A SCREAM FROM HERE. IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
When in oiran-mode, Takao is very ill-tempered
...someone SO very worth defeating!
MY SHAME KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES FOR RAISING SUCH A CARELESS APPRENTICE, WHO REQUIRES SO MUCH WORK AND IS SO UNLIKE ME
That's why I'll polish my skills even more and stand on the top of all oiran
Defeat Takao
And one day, I'll bring Takao to his knees!

clank
THUD
SORRY. PASSING THROUGH!
WAH!
I'm going to take the dishes away now.
Please
drag drag drag
Hiya Tsuta-ki-chan
YATSU-HASHI NEE-SAN! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
Isn't that your favorite client?!
ASK HIM. THAT GUY LAID HIS HANDS ON ANOTHER COURTESAN AGAIN.
Even though he has me!
Let's pray for him
TOO BAD FOR THE POOR MAN.
Survive and come back safely
WHAT A STUPID CLIENT.
AND HE KNOWS VERY WELL THAT IN YOSHIWARA PUNISHMENT IS DUE TO ANYONE WHO BUYS A DIFFERENT COURTESAN FROM THE ONE HE DESIGNATED
I'll mobilize all my apprentices for that!
Mercy. You're the only one for me. I know it.
GRAB
HEY. YOU NEWBIE.

thunder
thunder
SHOCK
YOU CAN'T DUMP TEA-CUPS ON A PERSON'S HEAD AND JUST WALK PAST.
Tea cup
Chopsticks
Tea cup
crackle
crackle
crackle
crackle
TSUBAKI! WHAT KIND OF COURTESAN ARE YOU?!

I AM SO VERY SORRY!
THAT'S OIRAN TAKAO'S PRECIOUS TREASURE GRO- I MEAN, TREASURED FAVORITE CLIENT!
WHAT KIND OF BLUNDER WAS THAT TO MAKE?!
Madam is really mad.
smash
GINGETSU SAMA,
AN APPRENTICE'S BLUNDER IS HER ELDER SISTER'S BLUNDER, TOO.
PLEASE, LET THIS TAKAO ATONE FOR IT.
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT!
THEN, EVEN IF SOMEONE SUDDENLY STOMPED ON YOUR HEAD, YOUR FACE WON'T BE SMASHED IN THE GROUND.
I'LL TEACH YOU SOMETHING USEFUL.
Grin
WHEN YOU BOW LIKE THAT YOU PUT YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS.
AND THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT TO PUT YOUR FOREHEAD TO THE GROUND
So that your nose comes in the middle of the triangle of your fingers
Like this?

YANK
AH!
IN THAT CASE, TONIGHT CAN I LOOSEN UP THAT TIGHT OBI OF YOURS?
TAKAO.

AH, I THINK HE MUST BE THE YOUNG LORD OF SOME PROVINCE...
HE'S HIDING HIS TRUE IDENTITY, BUT RUMORS SAY HE'S THE YOUNG MASTER OF SOME IMMENSELY RICH MERCHANT.
HIS NAME IS GINGETSU.
HE WAS ALWAYS ONE OF OIRAN TAKAO'S FAVORITES, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE LATELY, HE'S BEEN PRESSING HER TO SLEEP WITH HIM.
BUT NO MATTER HOW POWERFUL HE MIGHT BE, ISN'T BREAKING DECORUM LITTLE BY LITTLE, WITH WORDS AND ACTS, WHAT OIRAN HATE THE MOST?
A WOMAN AS PROUD AS TAKAO WOULD HARDLY LET SOME SLIGHTLY PUSHY FELLOW LOOSEN HER OBI
DANGER?
I EXPOSED YOU TO DANGER ALONE TAKAO.
BUT... IT WAS MY FAULT.
DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU.
IT'S THE USUAL STORY

# THREE

It's all really thanks to everyone's support. I'm so very grateful to you all.

Well, I think Dream Girl falls under the "historical piece" category, but what bothers me about it is the question "how far do I go with historical accuracy?" Eh? Talk about historical accuracy now?! I can understand how you'd be surprised. During the period, there were no such hairstyles in Edo. It was impossible for Japanese hair, which falls out of place so easily. And not to mention that men and oiran actually— (The rest is omitted.)

Ehm... To sum it up, it's not drawn historically accurate AT ALL. Bwok. *tapping*

Anyway, even if we put aside the considerations above, for 300 years of history, the names of Yoshiwara courtesans and the house systems have changed mind-blowingly with the flow of time. For example, if you try to picture gorgeous and luxurious, the style which usually comes to mind first is

but that's actually a rather late style.

⇐ To be continued in FOUR

AT THAT MOMENT, I THOUGHT GINGETSU-SAMA WAS GOING TO NOTICE YOUR BUILD AND FIND OUT YOU'RE A MAN. TAKAO-NEE-SAN.

OF COURSE I KNOW THAT YOU MANAGE TO FOOL HIM EVERY NIGHT.

BUT I THINK IT'S BEST TO AVOID DANGEROUS SITUATIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME?

OF COURSE I AM—

THUMP

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
IT'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO BE WORRIED OVER.
Whisper son

suddenly
reverts
to being
Shin
BESIDES,
IT'S NOT AS IF ALL MY CUSTOMERS COME TO ME BECAUSE THEY LUST FOR A WOMAN...
EH?
THE OWNER REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE!
SLA
M
REALLY SUDDENLY
scatter
COME ON, BRING THESE LETTERS TO THE POSTMAN.
"Stay away" means...
YES...
AND ANOTHER THING
STAY AWAY FROM GIN-GETSU-SAMA.

I can't help being bothered
By Gingetsu-sama
Yeah! Kyle~
AH!
TSUBAKI-CHAN COME HAVE A LOOK! IT'S AMAZING!
EVEN SO WHAT OTHER GUESTS ARE THERE BUT THOSE WHO COME BE-CAUSE OF "LUST FOR A WOMAN" ?
A CLIENT OF MY ELDER SISTER'S GAVE IT TO US.
SOMETHING EXTREMELY RARE YOU CAN'T NOR-MALLY GET A HOLD OF!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
*Note_Danshoku was the term for male homosexuality and shunga were pornographic pictures or woodcuts Basically it's the father of yaoi manga XDDD
Screech
DANSHOKU SHUNGA!"
True Love
Above 18 only
IT'S STRANGE HOW IN THIS WORLD THERE ARE MANI-ACS WHO LEAN TOWARDS THAT RATHER THAN TO-WARDS US WOMEN.
Saying that with such a smile.
No place for women there all night
#ha ha ha!
Nailed to the spot
What is she, a grass-hopper? Chirren?
WHAT'S THIS PI-PI-PI-PI--PI-PI-PI--PIC-TURE?!

GASP
IT'S NOT AS IF ALL MY CUSTOMERS COME TO ME BECAUSE THEY LUST FOR A WOMAN.
Those words meant that—
AH, AMAZING
WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT TSUBAKI-CHAN'S HOBBY WAS SWOONING OVER SUCH THINGS.
GIN-SAMA!
NO-THAT'S NOT MINE—
Don't run away, everyone!
Personally, I'd like to see some more gusto in that.
WELL, THERE ARE CLEARLY MUCH MORE MEN IN EDO THAN WOMEN.
IT'S NO MYSTERY IF MEN DOWN ON THEIR LUCK HAPPEN TO DEVELOP SUCH SENTIMENTS.

I can hardly believe it.
YOU'RE... A MAN WHO "BUYS" MEN...
shiver
You're suspiciously well versed in that sort of thing!
GIN-SAMA, ARE YOU ONE OF THEM?
*Kagema — male prostitute / And Yoshichou is the Mecca of kagema tea houses.
Grin
EVEN IF YOU WERE A MAN—
Yank
I'D STILL WANT TO POUNCE ON SUCH A PRETTY BOY LIKE YOU.
GROPE

That's no laughing matter!
BANG
Wait
Slam
TAKAO, WATCH OUT!
THAT MAN GINGETSU IS—
WELCOME BACK

Major blood loss
What will happen if by any chance Takao was found out to be a man?!
WHAT'S WRONG OJOU-SAMA?
YOU'RE DEFENSELESS! IF THE ONE WHO ENTERED WASN'T ME, YOU'D BE IN TROUBLE!
This is so
I CAN FIGURE OUT WHO'S APPROACHING BY THE SOUND OF THEIR FOOTSTEPS.

I RECOGNIZE...
...YOUR FOOTSTEPS.
This person can turn either into poison or into candy.
I don't want...
I was taking a nap and it just happened.
And why are you so disheveled in the first place?
anyone's eyes but mine to see him
Meow
TAKAO! YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME!
Especially this man!

Menace
It's not unusual for mariners to pounce on someone
take a seat and wait a moment
I understand your impatience, but please,
Ah I'm too far
Hug-block
With the price of my life,
I, Tsubaki, will
BLAKE
BLAKE
Expecting surprise attacks
She's coming down with a cold!
You have a low voice for a woman Takeo
Hmmm
It
This is today's hottest stunner

...protect Takao's secret and chastity!
TAKAO...
I RECENTLY HEARD A RUMOR THAT YOU'VE TAKEN A LOVER.
WAS IT A LIE WHAT YOU TOLD ME BEFORE, THAT YOU WERE SAVING YOUR CHASTITY FOR ME?
PERISH THE THOUGHT! A LOVER, WHAT NONSENSE!
BUT I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE BURNING WITH JEALOUSY, SEIJIROU-SAMA.
BUT... I'M TIRED OF BEING ON HIGH ALERT EVERY DAY.
This client is all right.
Her main target is Gengetsu alone.

Hm ?
YOU'RE SUCH AN ADORABLE WOMAN
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT IF YOU DON'T HONOR THIS PROMISE TO ME.
AH, SEI-JIROU-SAMA, YOU'RE SCARY!
TO TOKYO
That man!
How far does he plan to take his stalking?!
Drin5
I'll call in the young guard and have him thrown ou-
He even sneaks into another client's session!
TSUBAKI?

*Note They specialized in the arts above all

THEY SAY THE CRIMINAL IS UNDOUBTEDLY LYING LOW SOMEWHERE IN THIS AREA.
IT'S BEST TO KEEP OUR EYES PEELED HERE AT YOSHIWARA, TOO
DAMN..
THE RUMORS REACHED THIS FAR ALREADY.
LATELY, YOU'VE BEEN FIDGETY AND DISTRACTED
YOUR ART SKILLS AND THE WAY YOU HANDLE THE CLIENTS IS LIKE A PERFECT NEWBIE, UNWORTHY OF SHOWING IN THE ESTABLISHMENT.

FURTHERMORE AS GINGETSU-SAMA'S DESIGNATED COMPANION,
I CANNOT TOLERATE YOUR THREATENING ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIM ANYMORE.
"DESIGNATED COMPANION..."
THEN...!
YOU'RE SIDING WITH SUCH A PERSON WITHOUT A SHRED OF DIGNITY AND HONOR?!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY HE SPENDS ON YOU.
BUT IF YOU STOP TO THINK ABOUT THE DANGERS HE POSES TO YOUR POSITION AS AN OIRAN, YOU MUST BACK OFF FROM HIM.
THAT MAN IS—
MY FAVORITE.
...It's for your sake, Hakao

I'M A YOBI-DASHI OIRAN.
I REFUSE THOSE I DIS-LIKE RIGHT FROM THE START.
AND SINCE I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT USE SEX,
ONCE I'VE CHOSEN A CLIENT,
THE ONLY CHOICE I HAVE IS TO ENTERTAIN HIM IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT SHAME ME.
IF YOU'RE AIMING TO BECOME AN OIRAN, YOU TOO SHOULD REMEMBER THIS WELL.

EVEN AMONG THE LIES, "TRUTH" BLOOMS.
THIS IS THE WAY OF THE OIRAN TAKAO
How come...
I was so conceited...?
My servant Shin...
...is not here anymore.
squeeze
"For your sake, Takao"
No, that's not true

It was for my sake
I'M VERY SORRY.
The person before me is not Shin
TSUBAKI!
It's the woman called Takao

DAMN!
Kick
clatter clatter
YOU'RE SHOWING YOUR TRUE COLORS, OIRAN.
IT'S A WASTE OF SUCH A PRETTY FACE.
YOU PUT UP YOUR DEFENSES LIKE THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO GET CLOSE TO ME, RIGHT?

T-TOMOR-ROW!
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS TO-MORROW!
UNTIL THEN, USE YOUR CHARM AS "TAKAO"..
AND STAY WITH ME JUST A LITTLE LONGER.

OIRAN TAKAO HAS FINALLY TAKEN A LOVER!
Gossips
SOMEONE SAW THEM LAST NIGHT!
THEY WERE MAKING OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, IN THE SHADOW OF THE BROTHEL. HE SAW OIRAN TAKAO AND GINGETSU-SAMA!
DAMN! SO IT REALLY WAS THAT GREEN-HORN!
Takao's scolding and the news about her lover
I JUST GOT DOUBLE-PUNCHED...
MISS TSUBAKI, WHY ARE YOU SO GREENISHLY PALE?
poke
poke
woun
MUST BE HARD ON YOU
But
IT'S EVEN WORSE FOR THE OIRAN

I TOLD YOU TO CALL TAKAO HERE RIGHT NOW!
IT'S TAKAO-SAN'S FAVORITE, SEIJIROU-SAN.
HE'S MAD ABOUT THAT INCIDENT WITH THE LOVER.
AND HE'S QUITE DRUNK.
PLEASE DON'T WAIT IN THAT ROOM.
CHASTITY, MY ASS! SHE BETRAYED ME! SHE WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!
SLAM
IF YOU CAN'T BRING HER HERE, I'LL FIND HER.
Oh, no!
He's a completely different man?!

TAKAO'S APPRENTICE —
TSUBAKI-SAN
PLEASE, CALM DOWN, SEIJIROU-SAMA!
I'LL STAY WITH YOU AS THE OIRAN'S REPRESENTATIVE —
HM...
shivers
EH?!
NOW THAT I LOOK AT YOU CLOSELY, YOU DON'T LOSE TO TAKAO IN LOOKS.
THUD

I want...
to Hhhhmm!
THEN WILL YOU SHARE A PILLOW WITH ME IN YOUR ELDER SISTER'S PLACE?
STOP THIS, SEIJIROU-SAMA
UNTIL NOW, I GAVE AND GAVE SO MUCH MONEY AND GOT NOTHING IN RETURN. SO THIS APPROACH DOESN'T PAY.
IF YOU LAY A HAND ON ME—
CLATTER
IF YOU WANT MONEY, YOU CAN HAVE IT.

Was I the same as him?
IN THE END TAKAO IS JUST ANOTHER UGLY WOMAN WHO KNOWS NOTHING BUT HOW TO ASK FOR MONEY
YOU PROSTITUTES DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MEANING OF "TRUTH" IS...
I...let appearances and facades fool me.
"THE ONLY CHOICE I HAVE IS TO ENTERTAIN HIM IN A WAY THAT WILL NOT SHAME ME."
YOU'RE SIDING WITH SUCH A PERSON WITHOUT A SHRED OF DIGNITY AND HONOR?!
I was not seeing the "truth"
IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE, OF COURSE SHE'D GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER.
WHAT?
GRAB

IF YOU WANT "TRUTH,"
YOU MUST GIVE "TRUTH!"
slip
YOU'RE A BRUTE WHO KNOWS NOTHING BUT HOW TO STUFF PEOPLE'S MOUTHS WITH MONEY WHO'D FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU?!
stx stab

AS TAKAO'S REPRESENTATIVE, I'M EXTREMELY NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS PITTANCE.
ECK!
IF YOU'RE PREPARED TO PAY WHATEVER PRICE IT TAKES TO MAKE UP FOR THIS LACK,
THEN PLEASE, TRY TOUCHING MY BARE SKIN!

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT
DON'T YOU KNOW THE LAWS OF YOSHIWARA?
IT'S FORBIDDEN TO LAY A HAND ON A FURISODE APPRENTICE
AND ANOTHER THING, ONCE YOU'VE DESIGNATED ME AS YOUR COMPANION,
REGARDLESS OF WHETHER I HAVE A LOVER OR NOT, IT'S THE MOST UNFORGIVABLE CRIME TO LAY YOUR HANDS ON ANOTHER COURTESAN

IN THAT CASE, WE MUST HAVE YOU APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR INFIDELITY.
SNAP
SLIDE
IT'S TIME FOR PUNISHMENT.

shuuu
drop
WHAT DID YOU THINK YOU WERE DOING?!
I SWEAR, YOU'RE HELPLESS!
TAKAO..
...IS THE OIRAN I WANT TO BECOME

AND I CAN'T TOLERATE ANYONE WHO TRIES TO DIRTY THIS TAKAO!
THAT'S WHY I'LL PROTECT YOU. WITH MY ALL
THIS IS...
...MY WAY.
Even if you say you don't need that

OIRAN! THE INTRUDER ESCAPED!
OIRAN... AH? WHERE DID THEY GO?
pu!!
YOU ARE..
...REALLY A MESS.

I'M SORRY IT TOOK ME SO LONG
TSUBAKI-OJOU-SAMA.

IF THAT'S HOW IT'S GOING TO BE, THEN I'LL DO TO TAKAO AND THAT APPRENTICE THE SAME AS TO THAT WOMAN IN YOKOHAMA...
I WON'T LET YOU
DAMN!
WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
YOU CAN'T CUT DOWN THAT COURTESAN YOU FINANCED JUST BECAUSE SHE ELOPED WITH A LOVER.
I WAS KEEPING YOU HANGING AROUND IN THE MEANTIME WITH MY PLAN TO MAKE YOU JEALOUS OVER TAKAO.
BUT OH, MAN, I'M SO GLAD YOU SWALLOWED IT HOOK, LINE AND SINKER.
When news of the murder reached here I was worried that you'd flee, though.
YOU?!
WARRANT
Seijirou is an alias right?
IT TOOK QUITE SOME TIME TO FIGURE OUT YOUR IDENTITY.
THE TRUTH IS, I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU ALL ALONG

WAIT... EVERYTHING'S AS YOU SAW IT.
FORGIVE ME...
THE YOKOHAMA COURTESAN MURDERER...
SMASH
BWAH!
...IS ARRESTED.

POLICEMAN?
YEP. I'M THE ALLY OF JUSTICE WHO PROTECTS THE CITY OF EDO AND THE PEACE AND SAFETY OF YOSHIWARA.
We have a long & rotten history with Takao
HE'S THE DIRTIEST OF THE DIRTY ROTTEN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO DOESN'T BAT AN EYELASH BEFORE USING BLACKMAIL, THREATS, EXTORTION AND BRIBERY!
What? Justice?!
PAT PAT
WITH THAT MONEY I BOUGHT TAKAO AND AS COLLATERAL, HE GIVES ME SECRET REPORTS OF THE INFORMATION FLOWING AROUND HERE
And then I use it all over again to get money
"IT'S NOT AS IF ALL MY CUSTOMERS COME TO ME BECAUSE THEY LUST FOR A WOMAN."
THEN...
WHAT YOU SAID BACK THEN MEANS...?
LOOKS LIKE TAKAO SAID SOME PRETTY HARSH THINGS TO YOU BECAUSE OF ME I'M SORRY.

YOUR RESPONSES WERE SO CUTE AND FUNNY THAT I COULDN'T HELP WANTING TO TEASE YOU SOME MORE.
BUT TAKAO IS JEALOUS, SO I GUESS I SHOULD REFRAIN FROM COMING TO YOSHIWARA FOR SOME TIME, EH?
JEALOUS..
I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY-THING AT ALL.
Well well
GINGETSU, DON'T SAY UNNECES-SARY THINGS—
SO I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY ANYMORE!

SO GIN-GETSU-SAMA, DON'T SAY YOU WON'T COME ANYMORE!
NO MATTER WHICH WAY SHE LEANS, OIRAN TAKAO IS OIRAN TAKAO.
PLEASE, BY ALL MEANS, DO COME AGAIN!
THERE ARE STILL MANY THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND, BUT I SUP-PORT YOU TWO!
SPARKLING SPARKLING
I'LL LEARN AND LEARN THE WAY OF THE OIRAN AND POLISH MY ARTS EVEN MORE AND—
That scolding was an eye opener!
I'LL WORK HARDER THAN BEFORE ABOUT THE MUSIC I PRO-VIDE YOU!
IS THAT SO...? THEN I...
I guess I should start dressing up now
IS THAT SO? IN THAT CASE—
One step away from laughing to death
WON'T BE SHY AND COME OVER ALL THE TIME...

...I'LL GIVE YOU A HELL OF A TRAINING.
IN ORDER TO SATISFY YOUR EXPECTATIONS...
CROAK
TAKAO IS REGRETTING THE UNNECESSARY THINGS HE SAID HIMSELF
BANG
NO, NOT REALLY.
Oiran, are you, by any chance, mad about something?
Tsubaki is being suspiciously cordial entre
Then I'll leave you two alone.
Where do you get this kind of money?
ONE DAY YOU WILL GO BANKRUPT
And afterwards...
(Saw fun and so) Come again.

# POLICE

Yoshiwara was under the jurisdiction of the city magistrate's office. On the immediate left of the great gates which served as entrance and exit to Yoshiwara, there was a guard house. A couple of secret policemen and a detective were always stationed there, watching over the flow of people in and out of the place.

Even if protection of the peace and safety of the place was the official reason for their presence, usually the quarrels and disputes were settled quietly, by the brothel owners. Sometimes, maybe they even received large bribes and feasts and entertainment from the owners ?

http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID TOOLS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

# Oiran Girl

## Volume 01 Chapter 03

Lacaille :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaille :PROOFREADER
Mya :EDITORS
Lacaille :QUALITY CHECK

A pure-hearted samurai bishie but knows what the word "sado" means?! ·O "kidnaps him for her own harem"

- Lacaille

http://... irchighway.net/#aerandria

I used to be the daughter of a wealthy merchant
But one day, I suddenly lost my home and
—had to part with my servant Shin who was also my first love
Now I live in Yoshiwara aiming to be an oiran
Oiran Girl
OH! OIRAN TAKAO FROM THE MIURAYA IS PASSING THROUGH!
Who would have imagined it?
Who would have believed that my first love servant has become...
CLACK
CLACK

(Warning) MAN
...the best selling oiran in Yoshiwara?!
Main character
Oiran Girl
Chapter 3

Miuraya's Takao
A yobidashi chuusan courtesan, top ranking even among the highest level courtesan called oiran.
And if among the yobidashi chuusan one had to pick the first of the first,
I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY ALL THE PAINTERS ARE ONLY DRAWING HER.
SHE'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS A CELESTIAL NYMPH
not only the men but the girls around would swoon over her elegance and tell you she's an unattainable flower.
I wonder what kind of kimono she'll put on next?
She's always gorgeous!
COULD YOU PLEASE TAKE THESE TO THE PAWN SHOP?
Shh
Of course, the fact she's a man is top secret.

I DECIDED TO GET RID OF ALL THE ITEMS I'M NOT USING
I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ASK YOU TO DO SUCH ODD JOBS FOR ME OUJOU-SAMA, BUT...
It pains my heart.
It's fine I'm your apprentice after all
AH!
WHAT A PRETTY KANZASHI*...
*Note Kanzashi is a hair ornament someth ng between a hairpin and a comb
IF YOU LIKE IT, IT'S YOURS.
touch
HERE STAND STILL!
EH! BUT..
It looks very expensive.

When we're alone, he's the gentle servant, Shin...
IT LOOKS VERY WELL ON YOU.
HEY TSUBAKI, RUNNING AN ERRAND?
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'RE THE LUCKIEST APPRENTICE TO BE UNDER TAKAO-SAN
WORK HARD TO REPAY THE FAVOR, ALL RIGHT?
I SWEAR, WHEN ONE'S STATUS AND RANK RISES, ONE EVEN HAS TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE PESKY APPRENTICES.
ONE MUST REALLY THINK TWICE BEFORE BECOMING A BEST-SELLING COURTESAN
Really
But when exposed to other people's eyes, he reverts to the ill-tempered bully "Takao-"
What am I to you, human?!

Hohoho ho ho ho ho ho
Tsubaki
Mistress
Takao
ONE DAY I'LL STEAL YOUR POSITION..
..AND PUMMEL YOU TO THE GROUND!
THUNDER
* Tsubaki has a trauma stemming from being called "women of no monetary value" by Shin when they were little.
YOU DAMNED TAKAO! YOU'RE MAKING SPORT OF ME AREN'T YOU?!
WHAT WAS THAT
'ONE MUST REALLY THINK TWICE BEFORE BECOMING A BEST-SELLING COURTESAN!' ALL ABOUT?!
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS!
Ah!
Imitating Takao
YOU CAN KEEP BAD MOUTHING ME AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!
OOPS, I'M SORRY
thud
THIEF!
I KNEW IT, WOMEN ARE EASY—
I'M SORRY, TOO-
AH!
My pouch is gone!

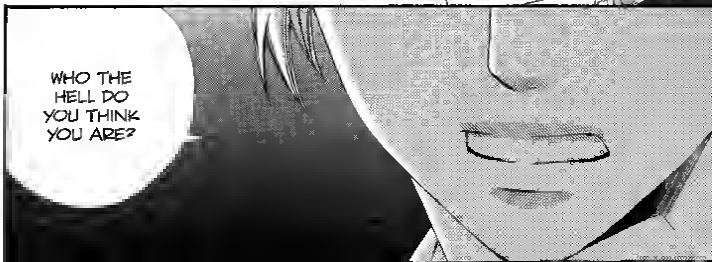
Stampede
There's no escape!
GEH ?!
What the-
And she's quick too!
THAT WOMAN—
SWAM
ECK-
Point
A MAN TARGETING A WOMAN'S BOSOM...
...IS NOT FIT TO BE CALLED A MAN.

I MUST REPAY YOU SOME-HOW
GEKI-SAMA, PLEASE RETURN TO THE PATRON'S TEA HOUSE.
What are you doing here?
NO, I'M BUSY...
Here your pouch.
TAKE CARE FROM NOW ON AND...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
Were you going to hit him with that?
Shoe
WOMEN SHOULD BE GRACEFUL.
WE'RE HERE FOR A FIRST AUDIENCE WITH OIRAN TAKAO
Don't tell me...
THIS IS THE SON OF THE KURODA HOUSE FU-KUOKA-BAN CHI-KUZEN-KUNI*.
he's Takao's client...
AND THIS IS...
KURODA GEKI-SAMA.
Slide

*Note: The name of an old province (roughly where Fukuoka prefecture is today)

Oooh~
...OIRAN TAKAO.
MI-URAYA'S.
NICE TO MEET YOU, OIRAN!
Thanks.
But
Is this really all right?
NERVOUS

In order to get close to an oiran, you need to pass through three stages
First audience
Return and Regular Part-ner
This person...
is a newbie when it comes to dealing with courtesans. Anyway, you look at him
Shoka (First Audience)
The oiran doesn't entertain the guest, she just sits there
The client must spend an extravagance of money and patiently display the vastness of his wallet.
Ura (Return)
The oiran comes just a bit closer to the client. But she still doesn't serve or entertain him
Naumi (Intimate Friends)
Establishment of a pseudo "marriage" withing the confines of the brothel. And they can consume their marriage.
OIRAN odds and ends of knowledge — The way to become an oiran's favorite (For usual customers)


WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

AND YOU GET MONEY FOR THIS?! THERE'S A LIMIT TO MAKING IDIOTS OUT OF PEOPLE!
THIS IS YOSHIWARA'S CONVENTIONAL PRACTICE!
THE OIRAN OF LARGE HOUSES NEVER SPEAK DURING THE FIRST AUDIENCE, IT'S WHAT EVERYONE DOES—
Ah
I knew it!
YOU DON'T REPLY TO GREETINGS AND HAVE NO MANNERS,
AND JUST RECLINE COCKY IN THE SEAT OF HONOR.
silence
I'M A CLIENT?
I'M SAYING THAT I'LL BUY YOU, WENCH!
ash
Cr
"BUY YOU, WENCH," YOU SAY?
Eck!

WE HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE IF YOU MISTAKE AN OIRAN FOR A MERE GIRL FOR SALE.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THE WAYS OF THE RED LIGHTS DISTRICT AND THEN TRY AGAIN?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU CAN TRY THE CHEAP BROTHELS NEAR THE FISH MARKET, PERHAPS?
FOR SOME SPARE CHANGE, YOU'LL GET RIGHT TO HEAVEN THERE
She left
The very model of oiran bullying.
Glance
It's a pity, but... this first audience was a major failure

*Note. Country samurai. I.e. a country bumpkin brute from capital people's point of view XD

ASAGIURA.*
THOSE COUNTRYSIDE SAMURAI COMING IN FROM THE PROVINCES HATE PAYING MONEY SO MUCH, AND YET THEY'RE SO FULL OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR EGO. PEOPLE AROUND HERE HATE THEM.
GINGETSU. Taku's close friend (?) Policeman and one of those who knows Taku's real identity.
WILL YOU SEE HIM IF HE DECIDES TO COME FOR AN "URA"...?
WELL... I DON'T THINK HE'S A BAD GUY, BUT...
BEFORE THAT. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO RESEARCH FOR ME, GIN-GETSU
hup hup hup
THERE'S...
...SOMETHING THAT'S BOTHERING ME A LITTLE...

I DIDN'T THINK BUYING A COURTESAN WAS SUCH A COMPLICATED MATTER.
KURODA-SAMA!
SIGH
AND I WAS SO EXCITED TO DO THIS FOR BIG BROTHER'S SAKE...
BIG BROTH-ER?
"JUST A GLANCE IS FINE, BUT I SO WISH I COULD SEE OIRAN TAKAO."
HE ALWAYS LOOKS AT A PICTURE OF A COU[illegible] AND SIGHS.
UNLIKE ME, HE'S OF WEAK HEALTH, SO HE CAN'T GET OUT MUCH

I came to Yoshiwara for someone else's sake
"Family," eh...?
Big brother
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I HAD NO INTEREST IN THINGS LIKE YOSHIWARA.
BUT THEN ONE OF THE SERVANTS SAID
Like me.
THEN I'LL GO THERE FOR YOU AND RETURN WITH MANY STORIES TO TELL HIM."
WHEN I HEARD THIS SUGGESTION...
The guy over there
I WANT TO SEE MY BROTHER'S FACE LIGHT IN HAPPINESS, TOO

I HAD A BIG BROTHER, TOO... I JUST REMEMBERED HIM.
drip
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU STILL HAVE THE "RETURN" AND "INTIMATE FRIENDS" STAGES.
AS LONG AS YOU ARE SINCERE AN OIRAN WOULD NOT GIVE YOU THE COLD SHOULDER WITHOUT A REASON
People often say...
...samurai are boorish and stupid,
YOU CAN STILL MAKE THINGS UP
I'LL GIVE YOU A HAND, TOO

Maybe we're more alike than we know
I'll learn the proper practices and try again too!
That's the spirit!
.....
OIRAN
HERE, A PRESENT FROM KURODA SAMA.
AS APOLOGY FOR YESTERDAY

THERE WON'T BE A RETURN
EH?
AND, EHM, ABOUT THE NEXT STEP, THE "RETURN"...
was wondering if you could agree to see him amiably
KURODA-SAMA IS A PERSONA NON GRATA HERE.
GEKI-SAMA IS NOT A BAD PERSON
HE'S MAKING AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT TO BECOME FRIENDLY WITH YOU.
OIRAN! IT'S TRUE HE MADE MISTAKES DURING HIS INITIAL AUDIENCE,
I've started studying Yoshiwara's history!
BUT EXACTLY BECAUSE THAT HAPPENED
Just the customs is not enough.
Here, enjoy.
Box of sweets
"TOO," EH?
I'M SURE THAT IF YOU KNEW HIM BETTER, YOU'D LIKE HIM, TOO, OIRAN.

Yeeees~
TAMAKO, HIYOKO, GIVE THESE SWEETS TO GINGETSU-SAMA.
AND DON'T YOU DARE PINCH ANY FROM THE BOX
EH?! SO YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MEET HIM HALF-WAY?!
IF YOU DUMP HIM AGAIN NEXT TIME, GEKI-SAMA WILL BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF YOSHIWARA.
I MIS-JUDGED YOU!
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT, TO INFLICT SUCH A THING TO HIM?!
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE YOU TURNED OUT TO SEE PEOPLE ONLY SKIN-DEEP, OIRAN!
THEN YOU TAKE HIM AS A CLIENT
SINCE YOU'RE ALREADY FRIENDS AND MEETING SE-CRETLY BEHIND MY BACK
Ugh!
THAT'S--

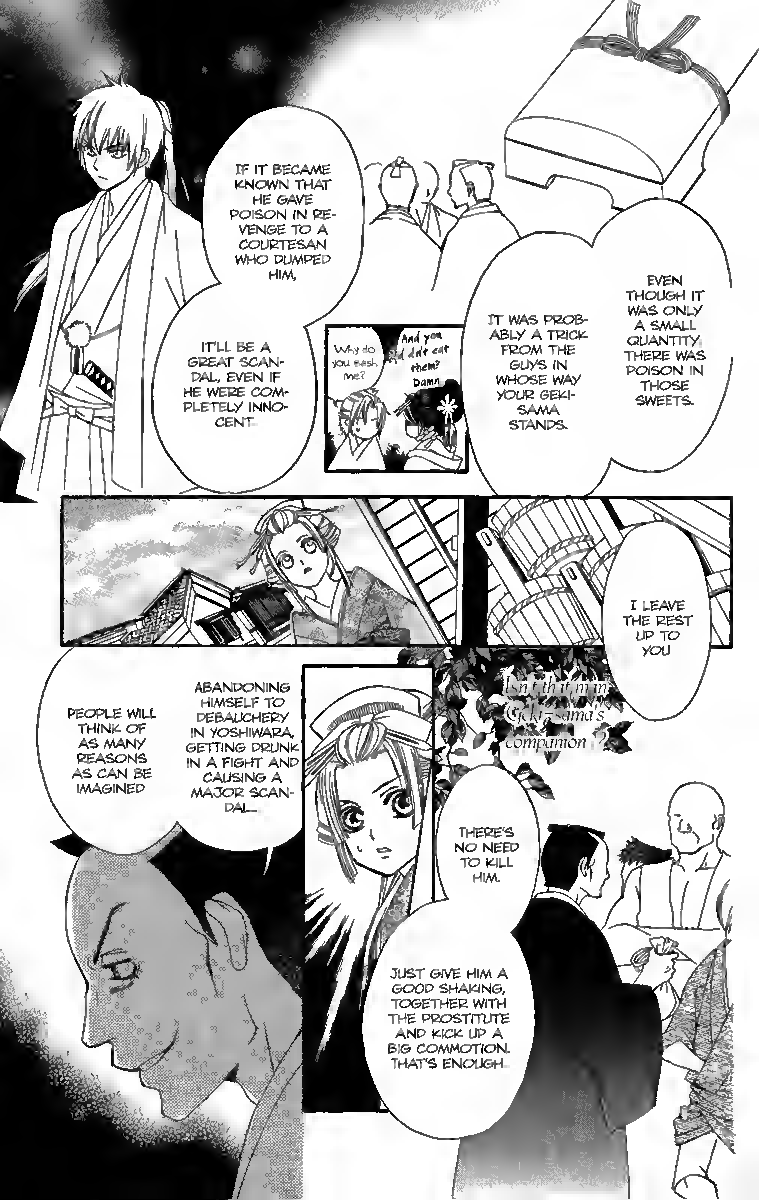
IN THE END, YOU'LL HAVE TO ENTERTAIN MY GUESTS UNTIL YOU MAKE YOUR DEBUT.
AH, BUT YES.
YOU CAN'T TAKE CUSTOMERS, YET.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

THE KANZASHI THAT DECORATE YOU.
What is it?
THIS LIPSTICK.
THE KIMONO, TOO
SHOCK
He's teasing me?
even more than usual
I BOUGHT AND GAVE YOU ALL THIS.
YOU'RE JUST AN APPRENTICE WHO CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT HER ELDER COURTESAN SISTER.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TAKING ORDERS.
slip
FROM A THIRD RATE PROSTITUTE.
slap
slap
SLAM
What
huff
huff
What the?!

I'm third rate, just as you say!
I don't want to see that face.
Yeah, that's right
pissed off
Third-rate prostitute!
CLANK
Jingle
slip
I could see Shin inside Takao
The way he pinned me down and spoke, without giving me a chance to explain myself

Doesn't this make things unnecessarily complicated?
NORMALLY, YOU HANDLE SUCH THINGS MUCH BETTER.
BUT YOU BECOME SO CLUMSY WHEN IT COMES TO THAT APPRENTICE.
TAKAO-CHAN
SHUT UP. I'LL STAB YOU.
I adore teasing Takao
You hug monster
SAMURAI ARE OFTEN CALLED STUPID BRUTES, BUT ON THE OTHER HAND
THEY'RE NOT OVERLY SOPHISTICATED AND HAVE AN ENDEARING RUSTIC SIMPLICITY AND HONESTY
Yes, yes!
IT'S AS YOU PREDICTED.
THE KURODA HOUSE IS NOW IN THE MIDDLE OF A VIOLENT INTERNAL TURMOIL AND FRACTIONING


IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT HE GAVE POISON IN REVENGE TO A COURTESAN WHO DUMPED HIM,
IT'LL BE A GREAT SCANDAL, EVEN IF HE WERE COMPLETELY INNOCENT.
Why do you ask me?
And you did eat them? Damn!
IT WAS PROBABLY A TRICK FROM THE GUYS IN WHOSE WAY YOUR GEKI-SAMA STANDS.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ONLY A SMALL QUANTITY, THERE WAS POISON IN THOSE SWEETS.
I LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU
Isn't that Gekisama's companion?
PEOPLE WILL THINK OF AS MANY REASONS AS CAN BE IMAGINED
ABANDONING HIMSELF TO DEBAUCHERY IN YOSHIWARA, GETTING DRUNK IN A FIGHT AND CAUSING A MAJOR SCANDAL.
THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL HIM.
JUST GIVE HIM A GOOD SHAKING, TOGETHER WITH THE PROSTITUTE AND KICK UP A BIG COMMOTION. THAT'S ENOUGH.

YOU WERE RIGHT TO DUMP HIM.
IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THAT TYPE, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOU.
TSUBAKI...
OF COURSE, HE WON'T GET AWAY WITHOUT LOSING HIS POSITION
GEKI-SAMA!

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE YOSHIWARA RIGHT NOW! JUST NOW, YOUR SER-VANT—
TSUBAKI!
I WAS GOING TO COME FOR THE "RETURN" TODAY
I've done my homework this time
HEH. SO THIS IS THE ASAGIURA IN QUESTION?
HE'S JUST A GREENHORN STILL WET BEHIND THE EARS.
Now I'll let him his way and he won't be able to protect himself...
EH?
Help!
ARE YOU GOING TO TRY AND PROTECT THE WOMAN, TOO?
Oh, no!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
SORRY A GUY PROMISED US MONEY IF WE HAVE A LITTLE FUN WITH YOU

PERK
THIS WOMAN IS NOT TAKAO
WHAT THE?! AND I WAS SO ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THIS EXACTLY BECAUSE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OIRAN TAKAO
Right now...
...that's the LAST thing I wanted to hear...
WE WON'T GET ANY POINTS FOR BEATING UP SOME THIRD RATE APPRENTICE.
WELL, WHATEVER, LET'S JUST GET IT OVER WITH.
IN SHORT, IT'S ENOUGH IF THIS MAKES THE YOUNG MASTER PULL OUT THE SWORD
DO YOU...
NOT LIKE ME, MASTER?
STAB
ping
EH ..?
I'M SORRY FOR NOT BEING TAKAO.
Tear

SL
AM
SNAP
GEKI-SAMA.
THE DANCE I'M ABOUT TO DEMONSTRATE IS ENTIRELY AND ONLY FOR AMUSEMENT
DO NOT GET INVOLVED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

WHAT'S WITH THAT WOMAN?!
YOU MIGHT GET BURNED-
...EVEN BY A THIRD RATE APPRENTICE!
RECKLESS! WHO'D STAND BY AND WATCH WHILE YOU—
SNAP
?!
YOU LITTLE-
SNAP
SNAP
I THINK TSUBAKI TOLD YOU THERE'S NO NEED TO STICK YOUR NOSE IN THAT...

STARK NAKED
MY, MY DANCING THAT DANCE WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE...
IS A RATHER INTERESTING AMUSEMENT
BY ALL MEANS, LET ME JOIN IN.
TAKAO ?!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?! I DON'T NEED AN OIRAN FOR THIS!
EVERY DANCE NEEDS MUSIC ACCOMPANIMENT, RIGHT?
ALL RIGHT! THE OIRAN ARE JAPAN'S PRIDE!
What, what?
IS IT A FIGHT?
NO, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THAT
YOUR MUSIC IS OUT OF TUNE!
It's been a long time for me.
AND YOU?! WHAT'S WITH THAT HUNCH-BACKED STANCE?!
Hah...
Ehm...

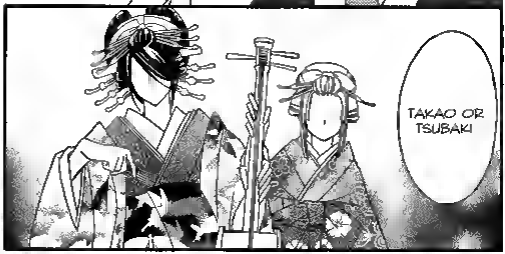
# FOUR

In the early years of Yoshiwara, the courtesans then called "tayuu" had surprisingly plain hairstyles and clothes

They had almost no kanzashi or combs

Also, in Yoshiwara's late period, the place was much more open to the general public and the rules about status and manners that were especially firm before started to crumble. And so on, and so on. In other words, if you get too caught up in setting the story in "this stage of this period," you end up with very few choices of what you can draw. So, my long awaited oiran-themed manga can't really be chosen as a representative of the genre (my special talent), so I had some internal conflict, but I more or less ignored my research of the the period and drew my manga my picking all styles that had blossomed during Yoshiwara's long history. The setting to this story is more or less the middle or later period of Edo, or so I think (I'm really unclear on this point), but don't think too much about that. I'd like the readers simply to enjoy this manga about the world of the oiran and think of it as a sort of parallel universe.


<- To be continued in FIVE



DRAG DRAG DRAG
Hahaha! And let me have a quiet word with you over there.
COME ON.
OIRAN!
WATCH AND ENJOY.

EHM. HE TOLD ME WHY YOU GAVE GEKI-SAMA THE COLD SHOULDER.
I HEARD FROM GIN-SAN.
STAB
I'M SOR—
Kanzashi?
YOU DROPPED THAT.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
YOU'RE JUST TOO—
I SAID TOO MUCH.
NO.

PLEASE,
thump
DON'T LOSE IT ANYMORE.
I TOOK CARE OF THE SERVANT WHO ORCHESTRATED THAT INCIDENT

IT'S A BLESSING THAT MY ELDER BROTHER WASN'T INVOLVED
THAT IS INDEED FORTUNATE.
Hush.
Gingetsu-sama, you peek.
You shouldn't.
WELL THEN, NOW THAT WE'VE BECOME INTIMATE FRIENDS,
GEKI-SAMA...
SHOULD WE CONTINUE THIS RIGHT NOW IN THERE?
BLUSH
! NO!
I'M—
THIS VISIT IS ENTIRELY FOR MY BROTHER'S SAKE! I COULD NEVER LAY A FINGER ON THE WOMAN MY BROTHER LOVES!!!
AH, WHAT A PITY

THE BATTLE IS WON.
And coincidentally, take his money without sleeping with him.
I'D LIKE YOU TO KEEP ME INFORMED OF HIS CONDITION EVERY SINGLE DAY
WHEN I THINK OF HOW MUCH YOUR BROTHER LOVES ME, MY CHEST STARTS TO BURN
I can hear your secret voice, you know
THE "COME VERY OFTEN" APPEAL EH
AH, I'LL BE GLAD TO COME VISIT
BESIDES, I TOO WANT TO SEE TSUBAKI.
PFFT!
NOW YOU'RE AN OIRAN'S CONSORT.
BUT WILL YOU MAKE ME YOUR FAVORITE ONE DAY?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET A WOMAN AS INTERESTING AS YOU
I WANT TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
GEKI-SAMA..?

BUT...
KURODA-SAMA, LET'S PRETEND THIS CONVERSATION NEVER TOOK PLACE, SHALL WE?
EH?!
SHOCK
BUT OIRAN, YOU ALREADY GOT YOUR MONEY FOR MAKING HIM AN INTIMATE FRIEND.
Why now?
As befits a samurai say
ALL RIGHT! I ADORE THIS FEARLESS STRAIGHT-FORWARDNESS!
Gingetsu!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
stab
YOU PEST.
Oiran are good at "sado".
I THINK IT'S ALL RIGHT TO TREAT HIM EVEN MORE INTIMATELY
?
HE'S A LOSER ANYWAY

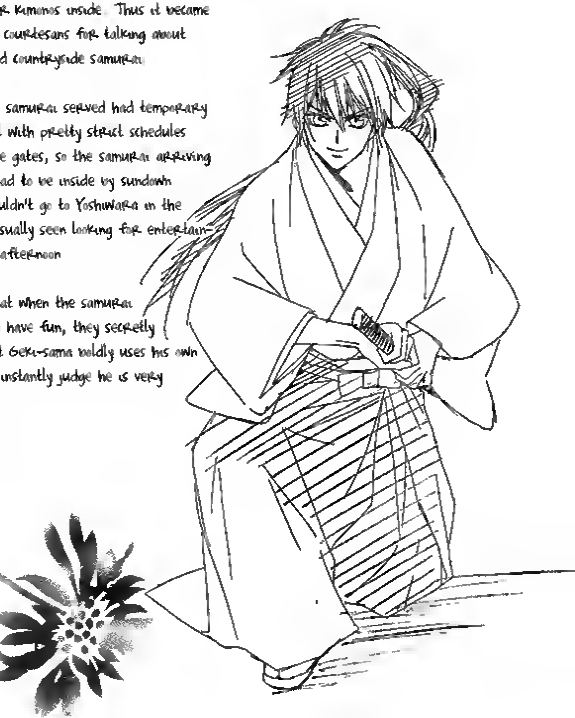
*NOTE: FUN TEA CEREMONY IS "SADO" IN JAPANESE. COINCIDENTALLY, SO IS THE ABBREVIATION FOR "SADISM." XDDD

# SAMURAI

The word "asagiura" that Gingetsu used in chapter three is a term to make fun of samurai. It literally means "light yellow clothes lining" and comes from the fact that most samurai in the countryside used light yellow cotton to line their kimonos inside. Thus it became a slang word among the courtesans for talking about boorish and ill-mannered countryside samurai.

The daimyo to whom the samurai served had temporary residences in the capitol with pretty strict schedules for closing the residence gates, so the samurai arriving in the capitol basically had to be inside by sundown (around 6 p.m.) and couldn't go to Yoshiwara in the evening, so they were usually seen looking for entertainment there during the afternoon.

By the way, it seems that when the samurai sneaked out and went to have fun, they secretly usually used aliases, but Gen-sama boldly uses his own name, by which you can instantly judge he is very straightforward.



# KAMURO

Oiran Girl

Yoshiwara in detail FIVE

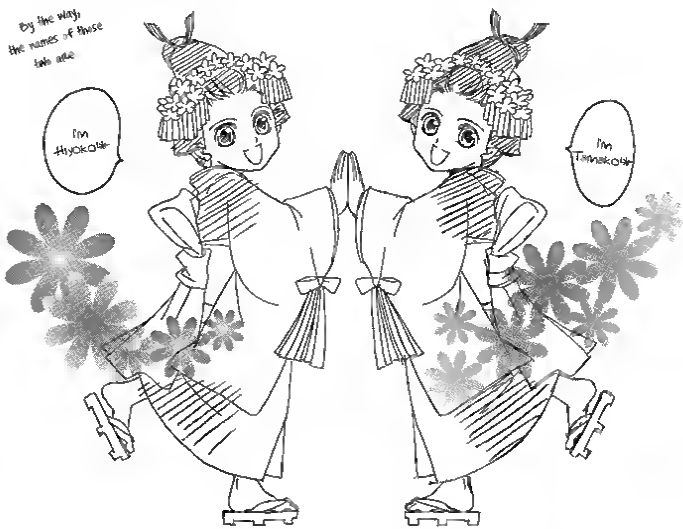
They are girls younger than ten years who serve the oiran, run all sorts of odd jobs for them and learn the ways and customs of the brothel.

The Kamuro who are judged to have the qualities to become courtesans in the future are kept strictly inside the house, called "Uchikomi Kamuro" and receive stern training from the owner about how to become oiran.

Kamuro usually receive simple six-letter names (different than their original names) and in cases like Takao's, who has two Kamuro, the names chosen are somehow related to each other.

Normally, apprentices and all other courtesans should use names different from their original ones, but that would complicate the story, so I have the main character Tsuwaki use her real name.

Like for example "Hamaji" and "Chidori," coming from the popular Japanese decorative pattern "Hamaji Chidori," "Plovers over the waves."




*Note: Egg-girl and Chick-girl to go with the "take" (hawk, falcon) in Takao's name.

http://www.aerandria.net

AERANDRIA

THE RAPID TOOLS BEHIND YOUR FAVORITE RELEASES!

# Oiran Girl

## Volume 01 Chapter 04

Lacaille :SCANNER
Mari :TRANSLATOR
Lacaille :PROOFREADER
Mya :EDITORS
Lacaille :QUALITY CHECK

KYAAAA! *gives herself a paper cut and holds up her hand* SHIN! I've got a wound, too!!! <3

- Lacaille

irc://irchighway.net/#aerandria

This is the red lights district of Edo, Yoshiwara.
TAKAO-SAN LOOKS MIGHTY BUSY LATELY
Always in and out on visits.
WELL, SHE AND HER AP-PRENTICE DID HAVE A SPECTACULAR FIGHT WITH SOME RUFFIANS A FEW DAYS AGO, YOU KNOW.
KA-CHING
AH, WON-DERFUL, WONDERFUL
NOT JUST ARTS, NOT JUST BEAUTY,
Kya~
YOU CAN WRAP CLI-ENTS AROUND YOUR LITTLE FINGER!
AH, YOU'RE HORRIBLE, OWNER.
~HOHOHO~
EVER SINCE THAT BECAME PUBLIC KNOWL-EDGE, THERE HAS BEEN A FLOOD OF CUS-TOMERS.
Oiran Girl

ALL OF THEM WANT TO SEE THE APPRENTICE TSUBAKI.
Oiran Girl
Chapter 4

Main character
Of course they do!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
I used to be the daughter of a wealthy merchant
Oooh! My hand craves again!
WHEN I HEARD THERE'S A GUEST COMING WHO IS PARTICULARLY FUSSY ABOUT KOTO PLAYING, I PRACTICED LIKE CRAZY
Together with the fall of my house, I was sold to Yoshiwara and now I've been here for eight years.
I ONLY PUT UP WITH YOU BECAUSE YOU'RE A RICH MAN'S DAUGHTER
A ballistic confession at parting
SHOCK
At the time, my first love, my servant Shin said to me
"SHIN! I DON'T WANT TO BE AWAY FROM YOU!"

Thunder
FLARE
JUST A LITTLE MORE OF THIS SUFFERING!
I've been diligent and hardworking to the point of vomiting blood!
Ever since then, I've been aiming for the pinnacle of the oiran
I'LL ROCKET ON UNTIL I REACH MY LONG CHERISHED DESIRE!
At first sight this might look elegant, but under the surface the duckling desperately flaps its feet
Perfect Woman
You bastard!
I'LL BECOME SUCH A GORGEOUS, REFINED WOMAN, UNATTAINABLE TO THE LIKES OF YOU, AND SHOW YOU WHAT I'M MADE OF!

Shiver
OJOU-SAMA
Fire Brigade
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO CUT OUT THE NONSENSE TALK?
SLAP

...my former servant Shin, who carved onto my innocent maiden's heart a trauma deeper than the seas...
...
Heh~
The worst part is that
ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE OIRAN IS TO RAISE THE NEXT GENERATION OF OIRAN
rustle
JUST FOR THE RECORD, MY GOAL IS TO OUTDO TAKAO!
I know
THAT'S WHY I MAKE YOU ASSIST ME IN THIS.
has become, for all my sins, the top ranking oiran in Yoshiwara!
And my elder courtesan sister, no less!

I hate that clever, bothersome fortune of yours. YOU JUST WANT TO SNEAK AWAY FROM IT
Surprisingly
PERSONALLY, I THINK YOUR "FAN UP THE FIGHTING SPIRIT AND GROW" STRATEGY IS VERY GOOD
AFTER ALL, YOU...
...HATE TO LOSE MORE THAN ANYONE AND WORK HARDER THAN ANYONE
Shin's eyes
...are always gentle.
Then why
MISS TSUBAKI, YOU HAVE HACHIMONJI* EXERCISE TODAY!
SLAM

*Note: Hachimonji is a special way of walking that the girls practiced

...why is Takao so ill-tempered!
SO
WHERE'S MY "THANK YOU"...?
pinch
Exposed to other people's eyes, Shin switches back to Takao mode.
Don't SHOO me!
Go on Shoo! Practice is starting.
.....
DROP YOUR HIPS MORE!
SPREAD THE STEP WIDER!
WHIP
SLAP
Ouch, ouch, ouch!
And no vulgar sounds.
At it again.

IF YOU GO OUT LIKE THIS, EVERYONE ON THE WAY WILL PITY YOU.
Oh, boy.
GWAH!
My butt hurts
*8 sun = approximately 24 centimeters
BUT THESE CLOTHES ARE HEAVY AND WALKING ON 8-SUN TALL GETA IS JUST—
Oiran's outing outfit weighs about 20 kilos.
Well, well
Eek!
GINGETSU
Policeman guarding the peace and safety of Yoshiwara day after day. One of the people who knows Tokae's real identity. Tokae's bosom buddy.
IT USUALLY TAKES ABOUT THREE YEARS TO PERFECT THE SOTO-HACHIMONJI*.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE PATIENT
TSUBAKI'S TSUKIDASHI IS STILL A LONG WAY IN THE FUTURE.

*Note: Variation of the pronunciation used for walking outside the house.

WHY ARE YOU HERE, YOU LOUNGING ROLLING BULLYING BASTARD?
GINGETSU-SAMA, UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE STILL NOT OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
Kyaa! Ganryuu-sama!!
A special way of walking that oiran use when they are out of the house. It leaves pin-hole footprints, like these. The arrangement changes a little according to brothel and historical period.
Clip-clop
"Tsukidashi" is a public ceremony when an apprentice takes clients for the first time and becomes a courtesan in her own right.
I'll go throw it out
I can't stand to watch this worm.
See you later!
Until the age of about ten, the "hikikomi kamuro" are selected among the kamuro as girls who seem to have talent for future courtesans.
Only a handful of courtesans get to have a public procession for the event of their tsukidashi...
Only the apprentices promising to reach the highest rank of oiran one day, the tsukidashi chuusan
They receive a thorough and severe training as possible on how to become oiran.

That's why I shouldn't get too proud and cocky.
Fortunately, I'm one of the candidates for earning this privilege.
WILL YOU CONTINUE WITH THE TRAINING?
You sure work hard.
YES. BECAUSE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN UPLIFT ME, IS MYSELF.
Because, we courtesans are flowers allowed to bloom only within the confines of this small world of Yoshiwara
BESIDES, TAKAO SAID SHE PERFECTED IT IN A YEAR!
The bachimonji.
RUN!
If she can do it, I can do it!
Ouch! Ouch!

?!
WAH!
EH! NO!
Tamako Hyoko help me out!
YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE LIST FOR OUR NEXT HEAD COURTE-SAN!
OUR MI-URAYA'S GOLDEN EGG!
GOOD WORK, TSUBAKI-SAN!
I'm aiming for that suit!
O-UME-SAN
O-TAKE-SAN,
HEAD COURTE-SAN...
BUT I HAVEN'T EVEN BECOME AN OIRAN, YET...
O-MATSU-SAN
EHM, YOU'RE ALSO MIURAYA AP-PRENTICES, RIGHT..?
AND YOU'RE SO HUMBLE, TOO!
I WANTED TO BE OIRAN TAKAO'S APPRENTICE, TOO
I ENVY YOU
IT'S BE CAUSE YOU WORK SO VERY HARD! IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
THE OWNER SINGS YOU PRAISES ALL THE TIME.
HE SAYS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FILL OIRAN TAKAO'S SHOES AS HEIRESS IS YOU TSUBAKI-SAN

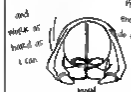
SHE'S ALWAYS INQUIRING ABOUT OUR WELLBEING, EVEN THOUGH WE'RE NOT HER APPRENTICES.
SHE GIVES US HOT SAKE ON COLD DAYS.
BECAUSE SHE'S SO GENTLE.
EH?! Gentle?!
DESPITE HER LOOKS, SHE'S ILL-TEMPERED BULLIES ME EVERY TIME SHE OPENS HER MOUTH.
GIVES ME TRAINING RIGHT OUT OF HELL EVERY DAY, MAKES ME RUN ERRANDS AND SHE'S ALWAYS ON MY CASE.
M-MINE IS THE SAME!
HEAVY ATMOSPHERE
despair
MY OWN ELDER COURTESAN SISTER IS A MISER AND SLAVE DRIVER.
SHE'S ALWAYS IN A BAD MOOD AND ALSO HOT-TEMPERED...
BY WHICH, YOU MEAN?
HER LOOKS MAY BE GOOD, FOR WHOEVER LEANS TOWARDS THAT KIND OF SHADY, SUSPICIOUS BEAUTY, BUT INSIDE SHE'S AS BLACK AS THE DARKEST INKJET NIGHT.

SHE'S BLACK AND EVIL TO THE GUTS!
THAT WAS A DISASTER, WASN'T IT, TSUBAKI-CHAN?
TAKAO-SAN WILL SCOLD YOU.
WHAT WITH WHAT HAPPENED A FEW DAYS AGO AND ALL...
Flashback
PLEASE, FORGIVE TSUBAKI-SAN, OIRAN!
What's going on?!
IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME US!
Ouch, Ouch, Ouch, Ouch, Ouch!
IT'S BECAUSE WE WERE SAYING SUCH RUDE THINGS—
tearY
EVERYONE!

And then...
Whisper
SPEAKING BAD ABOUT TAKAO-SAN, SHE KNOWS NO SHAME!
DUMPING ON HER FELLOWS THE FAULT FOR THE POISON SHE SPLURTED OUT HERSELF, THAT'S THE WORST.
HER POPULARITY OF LATE MUST BE GOING TO HER HEAD...
VILLAIN STATUS: MAX
THAT'S NO HELP AT ALL!
BECAUSE OF OUR INSTIGATION, ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, TSUBAKI-CHAN JUST LET HER REAL THOUGHTS SLIP OUT, THAT'S ALL!
Villain status: Up
Hey don't move.
WELL... IT WAS MY FAULT TOO, FOR LETTING MY TONGUE RUN AWAY WITH ME
It's as they say... you reap what you sow.
SPEAKING OF O-MATSU, SHE CAME TO THE HOUSE A LITTLE BEFORE YOU DID, TSUBAKI.
AT FIRST, TO BE HONEST, SHE DIDN'T STAND OUT.
BUT SHE TURNED OUT TO BE A NATURAL AT LEADING THE CUSTOMERS BY THE NOSE.
IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, SHE'LL SNATCH ALL OF YOUR CLIENTS.
YOU SHOULD LEARN FROM HER SEX APPEAL, TOO TSUBAKI.
Ya See, Appeal
That's quite arrogant.

## FIVE

But even if I say that, there are plenty of points on which I simply did not do enough research. In chapter 1, Tsunaki is wearing that top layer kimono that only oiran are supposed to wear. Apprentices did not usually wear such clothes. I only noticed that after I had drawn it. It can't be fixed now. I'm sorry. I'm such a newbie at this, that I'm sure a lot of mistakes will pop up from now on, too, if I just look for them. But please, be generous towards me, let my mistakes pass you by and continue your patronage. But it'll be a real help if you gently point out those mistakes to me.




Lastly

It's a fact that tens of thousands of women have lost their lives while still young as Yoshiwara courtesans. They have all become muenbotoke (people with no children or any relatives to visit their graves). They sleep their eternal sleep in Jouman-ji (a Buddhist temple on Tokyo) and Yoshiwara Benzaiten Shrine, so I'd like to visit them there to express my deep gratitude to them.

WHAT IS IT?
I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU BUT LOOK.
THIS WAS LYING IN THE DIRT AT THE BACK OF THE BROTHEL.
IT IS SOMETHING YOU GAVE TO TSUBAKI-SAN, ISN'T IT, OIRAN?
DON'T YOU THINK THIS IS HORRIBLE?
THIS KANZASHI IS TSUBAKI'S NOW
I DON'T CARE WHAT SHE DOES WITH IT NOW
BUT!

TSUBAKI-SAN IS...
NOT SUITED TO BE YOUR APPRENTICE, OIRAN TAKAO!
WHAT WITH THE BAD THINGS SHE WAS SAYING ABOUT YOU, I DON'T THINK SHE RESPECTS YOU AT ALL, OIRAN.
I'VE SEEN HER CAST PROVOCATIVE GLANCES AT YOUR CLIENTS.
LIKE THE MILLIONAIRE WHO LOVES THE KOTO.
IF SHE SAW AN OPENING, SHE MAY TRY TO STEAL H—
SO, YOU WOMEN THINK...
...THAT I'M SUCH AN IDIOT AS TO LET MY CLIENTS BE STOLEN AWAY FROM ME WITH SEX?

THE LAW OF YOSHIWARA IS EAT OR BE EATEN.
EVEN IF FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, THAT WERE TRUE,
petrified
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BACKBONE TO HANDLE THAT, YOU'LL NEVER MAKE YOUR WAY UP IN THIS WORLD.
AND ANOTHER THING. ONLY THE OWNER CAN DECIDE WHICH OIRAN GETS WHICH APPRENTICE.
THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOUR ARGUMENTS HERE!
WHAT IS SUPPOSED TO BE SO GOOD ABOUT THAT GIRL?!

EVERY-ONE JUST GOES ON AND ON ABOUT TSUBAKI THIS, TSUBAKI THAT...
O-MATSU-CHAN...
SHE JUST HAS GOOD LOOKS, ISN'T THAT ALL?!
YOU'RE IN SUCH A FOUL MOOD, O-MATSU.
HUH! GON-BACHI-SAN.
WEREN'T YOU BANNED FROM THE SECOND FLOOR* AFTER YOU BECAME BROKE?
*Ban from the second floor: In Japanese, be banned from entering a brothel.
SORRY, BUT IF SOMEONE FROM THE BROTHEL SEES ME, I'LL GET A BIG SCOLDING AFTERWARDS!
YEAH BUT I WANTED TO SEE YOU AT ANY RATE
YOU WERE LONELY WITHOUT ME, TOO, RIGHT?
Slap
WHISPER
CHUCK
YOU'RE CRUEL...
WHY DO I ONLY AT-TRACT THIS SORT OF GARBAGE?
Ah I'm so angry.

CLONK
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
What are Matsu, Take and Ume up to this time?!
O-MATSU-SAN!
"O-MATSU-SAN WAS CARRYING THIS KAN-Z. SHI."
COULD YOU RETURN MY KANZASHI?
HOW DARE YOU TREAT PEOPLE LIKE THIEVES?!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
DO ME A FAVOR AND CUT OUT THE FALSE ACCUSATIONS.

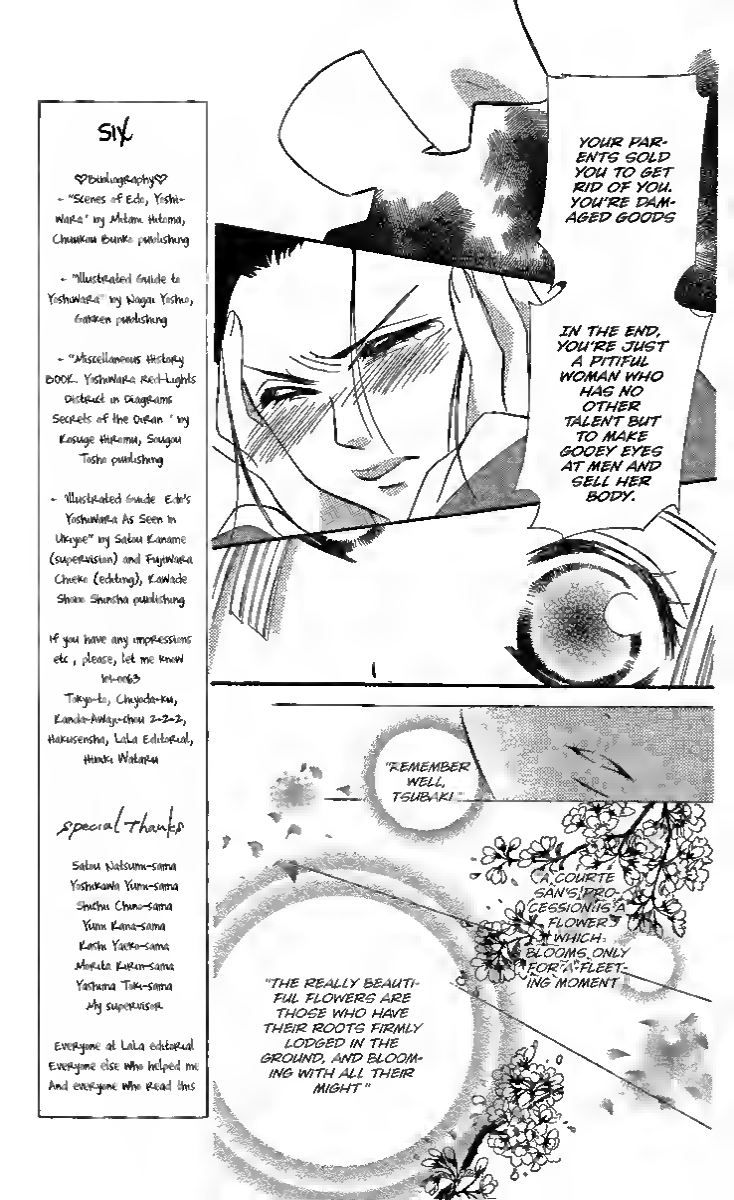
YOU LIE
THE EYES OF A PERSON WHO'S SPEAKING THE TRUTH ARE NEVER SO CLOUDED
EVEN I UNDERSTAND THAT MUCH
..... YOU'RE SUCH AN EYESORE.
YOU CAME HERE AFTER ME,
AND YET YOU BECAME NOT ONLY A HIKKOMI, BUT ALSO A FAVORITE!
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU'RE EVEN ALLOWED TO PARADE AS AN OIRAN! IT'S NOT FAIR!
O-UME'S ELDER COURTESAN SISTER IS ABSOLUTELY USELESS, SO O-UME CAN'T EVEN AFFORD TO WEAR PRETTY KIMONOS
O-TAKE WAS SOLD HERE WHEN SHE WAS FOURTEEN AND BY NOW SHE CAN'T EVEN DREAM OF A SUCCESSFUL CAREER.

*Note: jougi is a high ranking courtesan who services the elite of the customers.
**Note: sodetome is a self-supporting apprentice, older than a kosode apprentice.
***Note: oshiki-mochi is a low-ish rank, allowing a courtesan her own suit of rooms.

I IDOLIZED OIRAN TAKAO.
AND YET, TAKAO-SAN ONLY LOOKS AFTER ONE SINGLE PERSON.
IF WE COULD HAVE BEEN ATTACHED TO HER, WE COULD HAVE HAD A CHANCE AT CAREERS.
YOU WERE THE CHOSEN ONE TSUBAKI!
THANKS TO THAT, I COULDN'T BECOME A JOUGI*.
THE ONLY THING I HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO IS BECOMING A MERE SODETOME** TO SOME OSHIKI-MOCHI***.
Is this because...
...I'm the daughter of the master he formerly served?
FROM NOW ON, I HAVE TO TAKE CLIENTS AND START FENDING FOR MYSELF AND SAVING SMALL CHANGE.
WE'RE BOTH APPRENTICES, BUT IT'S A WORLD'S DIFFERENCE FROM YOU!
I GET IT, O-MATSU.

YOU WANT THIS KID TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO HER.
GON-BACHI!
I DO IT FOR YOU..
YOU USED TO BE HAPPY WHEN I MADE YOUR WISHES COME TRUE BEFORE
POINT
This man...
...must be O-Matsu-san's stalker that they were telling me about!
C-CUT THIS OUT!
WHO ASKED YOU TO DO SUCH A THING?!
OR WAS IT A LIE WHEN YOU SAID YOU'RE SMITTEN WITH ME?

THAT'S A PROSTITUTE'S CLICHE!
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD TAKE IT SERIOUSLY?!
WHAT?
A WEED LIKE YOU, GIVING ME THE CHEEK.
sfx. shove
HEY.. STAY AWAY FROM ME!
IN THE END, YOU SIMPLY DIDN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME ONE.
YOU COULDN'T BECOME A JOUGI? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
YOU FORGOT ALL GRATITUDE FOR THE WAY I SPOILED YOU.
TOO BAD FOR YOU
blush
WHA...


SIX
♡Bibliography♡
- "Scenes of Edo, Yoshiwara" by Mitsuo Hatama, Chuukou Bunko publishing
- "Illustrated Guide to Yoshiwara" by Nagai Yoshio, Gakken publishing
- "Miscellaneous History BOOK- Yoshiwara Red-Lights Pictured in Diagrams Secrets of the Oiran " by Kosuge Hiroma, Seiyou Tosho publishing
- "Illustrated Guide Edo's Yoshiwara As Seen in Ukiyoe" by Saburi Kuname (supervision) and Fujiwara Chieko (editing), Kawade Shobo Shinsha publishing
If you have any impressions etc , please, let me know
let-me63
Tokyo-to, Chiyoda-ku, Kanda-Awaji-cho 2-2-2, Hakusensha, LaLa Editorial, Hinako Wakana
Special Thanks
Sabu Natsumi-sama
Yoshikawa Yumi-sama
Shichu Chiho-sama
Yumi Kana-sama
Kachi Yuko-sama
Mariko Kaori-sama
Yashima Tiki-sama
My supervisor
Everyone at LaLa editorial
Everyone else who helped me
And everyone who read this
YOUR PARENTS SOLD YOU TO GET RID OF YOU. YOU'RE DAMAGED GOODS
IN THE END, YOU'RE JUST A PITIFUL WOMAN WHO HAS NO OTHER TALENT BUT TO MAKE GOOEY EYES AT MEN AND SELL HER BODY.
"REMEMBER WELL, TSUBAKI"
A COURTESAN'S PROFESSION IS A FLOWER WHICH BLOOMS ONLY FOR A FLEETING MOMENT
"THE REALLY BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ARE THOSE WHO HAVE THEIR ROOTS FIRMLY LODGED IN THE GROUND, AND BLOOMING WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT"

"SOMETIMES THIS GROUND HAPPENS TO BE COVERED IN SHADOW OR TURNED INTO A DRY SAND WASTELAND."
"MAY I BECOME THAT TOO?
"YOU MAY BECOME THAT, IS NOT THE RIGHT ANSWER
AND IF YOU'RE A WEED YOU MIGHT AS WELL START...
d'ench
"YOU WILL BECOME THAT.

...LOOKING LIKE A WEED!
stx stab

sfx: bang
ENOUGH.
ECK!
GRAB
WE'RE ALL DESPERATELY TRYING TO BLOOM HERE.
WEEDS, PEONIES, WHATEVER.
WE DAMNED WELL DON'T NEED YOUR PITY.
WHA?
...MY COL-LEAGUES MUST GIVE ME A HUGE SYMPATHY VOTE EH?
A WOUND I GOT WHILE PROTECT-ING
mumble
mumble
mumble
IS GAIN PRESTIGE TOO.

EVEN IF YOU CRUSH ME, IT WON'T COME CHEAP FOR YOU
EVEN THIS SCAR IS FODDER FOR ME TO GROW ON
IT WILL BECOME MY FLESH AND BLOOD!

sfx running
sfx bang
GYAH!
STAB

thud
ECK!
HELP M-

YOUR ANGER IS UNDER-STANDABLE.
BUT LEAVE THIS TO ME.
AND YOU'RE SUCH A BOOR FOR RAISING A HAND AGAINST A WOMAN.
Ah, man, I'm...
M-my head...
You're lucky
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, THAT GUY OVER THERE WOULD HAVE TURNED THIS INTO A BLOODBATH BY NO—
EH?
Gone
COOL
EH?
TSUBA-KI-SAN

EHM... SHIN
I can walk.
WHAT YOU DID WAS VERY STUPID.
slip
DID YOU THINK YOU WERE ATONING FOR SOMETHING TO THOSE WOMEN BY DOING WHAT YOU DID?
ARE YOU ANGRY WITH ME..?
I CAN'T GET ANY ANGRIER.
SO STAND STILL AND LET ME TREAT YOUR WOUND WITH NO PROTEST.

The wound is...
burning
AH...

BANG
NOT ALL COURTESANS ARE EQUAL.
COME HERE, YOU HUNK!
If it weren't for Shin-
If we had not reunited here, in Yoshiwara-
IF THIS WASN'T SUCH A TINY BROTHEL, I WOULD'VE SOLD SO MUCH BETTER!
BUSINESS IS SLOW AGAIN TODAY, EH?
I THINK I WAS REALLY LUCKY.
When I think about it...

THAT'S WHY, FROM NOW STOP—
"TAKAO" IS NOTHING MORE THAN AN OIRAN OF THE MIURAYA.
SHE WOULD NEVER TAKE UNDER HER PATRONAGE OR FAVOR ANYONE BECAUSE OF ANY PERSONAL SENTIMENT.
I don't know if this is courtesan coaxing or fate or whatever.

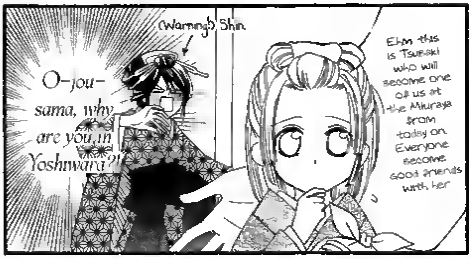
BUT ISN'T "SHIN"...
...ALLOWED TO PROTECT YOU?
But it's entwining AND it is together like a vine.

In the end, I cannot, ever,
let go of this hand.
SO IN THE END IT TURNS OUT SHE'S IN AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CATEGORY FROM ME
WHAT A PROBLEM.
HUMPH!
BUT EVEN WITHOUT THE PROPER EDUCATION, THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO RISE IN THIS WORLD!
WE'LL AIM FOR THE TOP IN OUR OWN STYLE!
Women are all about love and respect!
WE BEAT HER AT SEX-APPEAL, AT LEAST
Especially the chest

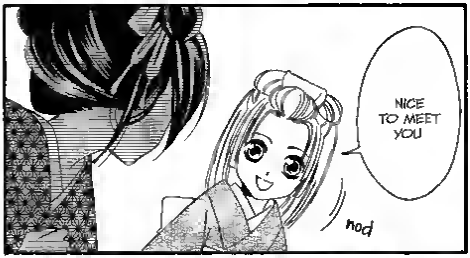
Do not make noise in the brothel. Do not snatch food.
DING
No bedwetting. Treasure the guests. Do no evil.
DING
In the end, the courtesans
are clearing the way ahead of them for yet another day
ANEGO!!
Got underlings.
?!
*Note: Term to address a young woman of high rank in the yakuza.
CLACK
CLACK
MAY I ASK SOMETHING?
NORMALLY, A YOBIDASHI OIRAN MAY EASILY HAVE TWO OR THREE APPRENTICES.
BUT YOU ONLY HAVE ME, TAKAO-NEE-SAN?
it's because he wants to be devoted to me
I'm sure that
OF COURSE

THE MORE OF YOU I HAVE, THE HIGHER THE RISK OF SOMEONE FINDING OUT I'M A MAN.
And there's a limit to the things I can teach you exactly because I'm a man.
YES, I WAS AM IDIOT FOR ASKING
Takao is acting her usual self
...until the day the flowers bloom
Striving towards the sun

## The Shocking Reunion


(Warmly) Shin
O-jou-sama, why are you in Yoshiwara?!
Ehm this is Tsuruki who will become one of us at the Miuraya from today on. Everyone become good friends with her

But after the way I wounded her back then, it's only natural if she make a laughing stock of me now..!
thump
thump
thump
Whaaa~t a surprise Isn't it~ I'm so happy to see you like this



It goes without saying, that he unleashed the full force of his ill temper on her after that
Kind of used to it
She has forgotten my face!
She looked more beautiful before!!
That person is scary

**Extra Manga**
**OIRAN GO GO Subtitle: Life never goes the way we plan it.**

# Distance Between Our Hearts

Continuation of chapter 4
BUT ISN'T "SHIN"
...ALLOWED TO PROTECT YOU?
THANK YOU
BUT...
...SAY THESE THINGS TO GINGETSU-SAMA FROM TIME TO TIME, ALL RIGHT?
This kind of thing should be said to the person you love the most.
HOMO SUSPICION
STILL PENDING
HOW DID I GO?